



THE INDEPENDENT

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FRIDAY 10 JULY 1998

(IR50P) 45p

32-PAGE NEWS SECTION

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

The cheat's World Cup
WITH 9 PAGES OF SPORT

FRIDAY REVIEW
A very English lynch mob

The village lynch mob
FRIDAY REVIEW FRONT

And the band played on
LAW

Orangemen: 'We'll paralyse Ulster'

THE Orange Order last night warned of its ability to "paralyse" Northern Ireland after a meeting between Tony Blair and senior Orangemen failed to produce a breakthrough in the Drumcree impasse.

Amid talk of "another Tiananmen Square" there was great apprehension that widespread disorder could result from Monday's annual Twelfth of July demonstrations, which will bring tens of thousands of Orangemen on to the streets.

As travel agents reported a rush of customers anxious to leave the country, the Royal Ul-

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK and COLIN BROWN

ster Constabulary continued to advise motorists to avoid many areas of Belfast and elsewhere while hijackings and road-blocks continued. Police reported that the violence had eased slightly overnight, although the total number of incidents of disorder has risen to almost 1,700.

Last night, numerous roads remained blocked by burnt-out vehicles. Bus and train services were again curtailed. The authorities say that more than

50 families have fled their homes. Police also said they had discovered devices containing nitric acid intended for use against them.

With Monday's marches looming, the First Minister and Unionist Party leader, David Trimble, warned that time was for running out for an agreed settlement. Church of Ireland Archbishop Robin Eames said that unless a solution was found Ulster faced disaster.

The talk of paralysing Ulster came from leading Orangeman David McNarry, who warned: "If Her Majesty's gov-

INSIDE
Belfast turns into a ghost town
Will the Orangemen destroy another peace process?
page 3

ernment is quite prepared to say to those people who are suffering at Drumcree, who are staying out at night, who are there because they firmly believe in their civil and religious liberties, if they are to be treated so scantily, then I've got to say that we can, if we wish, put our minds to paralyse this country in a matter of hours."

Later there were signs that others in the Order's leadership felt Mr McNarry had been too explicit in his interview. But there were ominous rumblings elsewhere within Unionism - one MP saying privately: "Drumcree could cease to exist unless the march is allowed to go ahead."

One of Mr Trimble's senior MPs warned that Drumcree could become "another Tiananmen Square" unless the Gov-

ernment offered a compromise which entailed allowing the Order to march along the nationalist Garvaghy Road.

Tony Blair failed to achieve a breakthrough in 90 minutes of talks with Orange leaders, but gave a commitment to continue the dialogue in a search for a peaceful solution. He praised the leaders for "keeping the temperature down" by their appeals for peaceful protests.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "It is a difficult situation but it is not the end of the dialogue. There may be further discussions by tele-

phone and I would not rule out another meeting in the future."

He said Downing Street was looking for "an accommodation rather than a compromise" and was insisting that the legal ruling banning the march had to be upheld. Unionist sources said the Orangemen had received no offer and were "confused" by Mr Blair's approach.

At a news conference in London after the meeting the Orange chaplain, the Rev William Bingham, said the meeting had been worthwhile but they were still intent on marching along the Garvaghy

Road. He added: "We came over to speak to the Prime Minister because we are concerned about the situation in our province. We are intent on keeping the channels of communication open."

The Orange Order denied that the Drumcree standoff was motivated by a desire to bring down the Good Friday agreement. Orange leaders however held a joint media conference with members of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, causing some observers to conclude that the stand-off has a double purpose.

No rate rise but respite may be brief

BY LEA PATERSON and COLIN BROWN

THE BANK of England yesterday brought some respite to homeowners and businesses by deciding not to raise interest rates.

The decision was welcomed by leading industry figures, who were dismayed last month when the Bank raised interest rates by another 0.25 per cent to 7.5 per cent. It was feared that the bank's move of increased rates and "a strong pound" would "push" the economy into recession.

There was concern in the City and the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had only delayed the inevitable and would have to raise rates again next month.

Kate Baker, chief economic adviser at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "The standstill in interest rates strikes the right balance between concerns over inflationary pressures in the labour market, and mounting evidence that the economy is slowing."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU), said: "The Bank has left industry and 200,000 manufacturing jobs in limbo. By refusing to rule out further interest rate rises, the Bank has fuelled speculation over future rises. And industry is left hanging in the wind."

John Redwood MP, Conservative trade and industry spokesman, said: "Despite no change in interest rates today, the uncertainty for business continues."

There was also relief in the Government over the decision. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, gave the Cabinet an upbeat assessment of the economy in advance of his comprehensive spending review, to be announced on

Tuesday, which is expected to increase public expenditure on health, education, transport and housing.

In a radio interview, the Chancellor said the economy was performing roughly in line with Treasury forecasts. However, he warned that inflation remained a problem for the UK economy, despite union claims.

City economists speculated that the MPC could simply be biding its time and may raise rates by another 0.25 per cent in August. By the time of its next meeting, the committee will have had another month's worth of economic data, and also will have had the opportunity to analyse in detail both the Government's spending plans and the impact of the minimum wage.

The Government's decision to cap the rate of real growth in public spending to 2.75 per cent a year for the next three years is widely interpreted in the City as a loosening of fiscal policy. If the Bank agrees with the City analysis, this could mean another increase in rates.

The City is worried this could result in an even greater loosening of fiscal policy, a development which would further strengthen the case for rate hikes.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, agreed that the Government's fiscal stance could force Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank, to keep interest rates higher for longer. At a Westminster lunch, Mr Clarke warned the economy was heading for a "hard landing".

City reaction, page 18
Leading article, Review page 3



A man casts his line in the River Wye - one of thousands of salmon fishermen who may be forced to give up their sport next year. John Voas

Salmon fishing likely to be banned

THOUSANDS of British salmon fishermen may have to give up the sport next January. For the first time, an indefinite ban on rod and net fishing for salmon is likely to be introduced to preserve stocks which have dwindled over the past five years.

Yet the problem is not the fishermen's fault. Scientists blame the falling numbers on global warming which is changing ocean currents and tem-

peratures, and in turn affecting spawning and survival rates of the young fish.

Official bodies believe the only effective action they can take is to cut anglers' catches. "There's not much we can do about ocean currents," said Guy Mawle, fisheries officer at the Environment Agency. "So we're concentrating on making

sure that the things we can affect are changed."

That means stopping fishing, which is reckoned to take between 10 and 50 per cent of salmon from rivers.

The decision could have serious effects on tourism, especially in Scotland, where wild salmon fishing is often offered as part of a holiday package.

"I think a lot of people would be up in arms about it," said a spokesman for the Scottish

Tourist Board. "It's a very popular pastime for incomers."

The Environment Agency issues about 35,000 salmon fishing licences annually in England and Wales, each costing £55. But numbers have fallen by 10 per cent in the past four years, in line with dwindling catches.

Scotland issues licences on a regional basis, but will also be affected by a ban.

In England and Wales, stocks

fell to a record low last year. In 1997, the catch by nets was 31,484 salmon - 39 per cent less than the average for the previous five years. Anglers declared a catch of 13,706, which was 38 per cent down on the average for the same period.

The form and duration of the ban, is being discussed. It might be brought in as early as next January, though licences usually run from April to March.

Sea horses at risk, page 15

Taliban impose a telly ban

BY PETER WALKER

FIRST WOMEN on television in Afghanistan were ordered to wear the all-enveloping black veil. Then they were banned from appearing on screen at all. Now the ruling Taliban party has taken the final step and banned television altogether.

Viewers have been given 15 days to get rid of their sets, after which, the religious police - bearded men with automatic rifles - will conduct spot searches and smash any they find.

The latest ruling from the country's Islamic authority also bans video cassette recorders, videos and satellite dishes.

Mohammed Qalamuddin, the deputy head of the Tal-



iban's religious ministry, said: "These video recorders and televisions are the cause of corruption in this society." He was speaking on Radio Shariat, radio being, in Taliban's view, a comparatively sinless medium. Since taking control of about 85 per cent of Afghanistan, the Taliban army has banned women from working and girls from going to school and has outlawed all music unless it is specifically religious.

Anybody who defies the television ban will not just lose his set. "He will be punished in line with Islamic law," Mr Qalamuddin said. He shed no light on which of the penalties prescribed by the Koran he had in mind.

As one Kabul observer noted yesterday, if the Taliban has its way, the only entertainment in the city will be watching public executions.

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 24

HOME NEWS
Hopes of freedom for an IRA "bomber" faded after a terrorist failed to testify at his appeal
PAGE 5

POLITICS
The NHS will get a cash boost in next Tuesday's Comprehensive Spending Review
PAGE 8

FOREIGN NEWS
More people died in Lagos as violence after Abiola's death in Nigeria continued to spread
PAGE 13

FOREIGN NEWS
California may abolish its boot camps for young offenders after a teenager died
PAGE 16

BUSINESS
The Kwik Save name could disappear from British high streets within three years
PAGE 18

SPORT
Michael Schumacher hinted that he is to stay with Ferrari for a further two years
PAGE 32

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INDEX

HOME NEWS

PAGES 2-12

For sale: gene-modified salmon

Genetically engineered salmon that mature faster than conventional ones are among 35 new biotechnology products to be offered to consumers in the next six years. Page 5

See the TV show, buy the T-shirt

Granada television has licensed Coronation Street to a number of companies who will produce a range of clothing based on the programme. Page 10

Scrubs lawyer 'harassed in jails'

A solicitor at the centre of allegations of brutality at Wormwood Scrubs prison claimed she was being victimised by staff at every jail she visited. Page 10

FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 13-17

Junta leader 'abducted babies'

A former Argentine junta leader who ousted Peron is alleged to have abducted babies. Page 15

Canada gets tough on smokers

Canada is considering putting a skull and cross bones on cigarette packets. Page 16

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 18-23

Names warn Lloyd's could fail

Lloyd's of London investors condemned moves to squeeze them out of the insurance market, warning a big influx of corporate money would cause it to fail. Page 18

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 24-32

Westwood slips at Loch Lomond

Lee Westwood was knocked off the top of the leaderboard at the Loch Lomond World invitational golf tournament by a round of 66 from veteran Scot Ross Drummond. Page 25

Spurs to pay £2.5m for Iranian

Tottenham are about to sign Iranian World Cup midfielder Mehdi Mahdavi for around £2.5m. Page 28

FRIDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Donald MacIntyre

"It's time for Tony Blair to do the old fashioned thing - like make his party feel they count again. They owe him a huge debt; he owes something to them too." Page 3

William Hague

"We understand why we lost the trust of the British people and we are reforming our organisation and changing our culture to win back their trust." Page 4

Letters	2	Music	15-19
Leaders and comment	3-5	Law	20
Obituaries	6-7	Listings	21-22
Features	8-9	Radio, Satellite TV	23
Science	10	Concise crossword	23
Arts, design	11-14	Today's TV	24

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 32



One of the 600 entries jostling for the 200 places at the Bradford Open '98 Art Exhibition, which opens at the weekend

Nigel Hillier

Liddle faces fresh accusations

A DOWNING Street adviser was allocated new shares in a lobbying company three weeks after he took up his new job, it was revealed last night.

As No 10 promised to investigate the new allegations in the "cash-for-access" row, it also emerged that Derek Liddle, who is accused of offering to make introductions for his former firm, appointed his next-door neighbour to hold his shares.

Mr Liddle was a founder of the SDP before rejoining Labour and the neighbour, Matthew Oakeshott, was once a Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate. However, Mr Oakeshott was also man-

aging director of a major firm of investment managers.

Special advisers and ministers are supposed to dispose of their business interests or place them in trust.

But while Mr Liddle handed his 30 shares in Prima Europe to Mr Oakeshott, he received 20 new shares in his own right in June last year, three weeks after he joined the Downing Street Policy Unit.

The company was sold six months ago for £1.8m to GPC Market Access, the lobbying firm which until yesterday employed Derek Draper. Mr Liddle's share of the firm amounted to a quarter of that sum.

Last night, Mr Maude said the arrangement "wasn't so much a blind trust as a cronies' trust. Roger Liddle should be suspended while this is investigated. That was always the right thing to do," he said.

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Liddle had taken the advice of the Cabinet Office on his business interest and had followed that advice to the letter.

"The blind trust arrangements were cleared by the Cabinet Office at the time although obviously, in the light of Mr Maude's letter, we will want to review all the material relating to this issue."

"Sir Richard Wilson, who was not cabinet secretary at the time, will respond to Mr Maude's letter in due course," he said.

It is understood that the increase in the number of the shares Mr Liddle held may have been a technical one, not involving an increase in the value of his shareholding.

Meanwhile, it emerged that Mr Draper was not bound by the same rules as other Labour apparatchiks during the election.

While all others who made regular visits to Millbank signed a confidentiality document, he refused to do so. However he continued to have "one-to-ones" with senior party figures and

was said to have won the backing of one of a senior party official, now a minister, for his refusal to agree to the gagging clause.

Former Labour officials who maintain close links with the party said there was widespread resentment about Mr Draper's special position, especially as he was a director of his own lobbying firm whose clients might have been interested in decisions a future Labour government might take.

Friends of Mr Draper said his agent advised him not to sign the document because of his writing commitments. He was preparing a blow-by-blow account of the election campaign.

Trials hit cancer medicine

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

DOUBT HAS been cast on claims that the widely-used drug tamoxifen can prevent breast cancer in high risk women. Two research groups carrying out similar trials report in the *Lancet* that tamoxifen did not appear to prevent breast cancer in their studies. It is taken by more than a million women around the world.

In April the National Cancer Institute in the US took the unusual step of releasing data about their trials into breast cancer prevention 14 months early after they found that women who took tamoxifen saw risk drop by 45 per cent. They notified the 13,000 women in the trial so that those who had been taking the placebo could consider starting tamoxifen therapy.

In a commentary in the *Lancet*, Prof Kathleen Pritchard said that the differences may result from the number of women (the US study was much larger with 13,000 women involved), differences in age (the US women were older) and variations in risk factors.

Formula One lobbyist offends Lib Dems

A LOBBYIST who was a former adviser to the late Labour leader, John Smith, was last night at the centre of a row over allegations of using pressure on the Liberal Democrats to scrap the launch of an anti-smoking campaign targeted at this weekend's British Formula One Grand Prix.

David Ward, director-general of the European Bureau of the FIA, the governing body of motor racing, lobbied the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy

searcher, and then at Mr Ashdown's secretary. He later spoke to the head of communications, who referred him to the party's public health spokesman, Dr Peter Brand.

Last year, Formula One was caught up in a political row after the sport was exempted from a proposed ban on sponsorship. Although the Government denied that there was any connection, Labour later returned a £1m donation from Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone.

Mr Ward defended his actions, insisting that he had been neither rude nor abusive. Confirming that he had also contacted the Department of Health, Mr Ward said he was simply trying to register legitimate concerns about the Liberal Democrats' backing for the initiative and "inaccuracies" in some of its statements.

Mr Ward dismissed as absurd the suggestion that he had been trying to pressure the Liberal Democrats, or seeking to exploit

his contacts within Labour. He said he had spoken to the DoH to inform them what the Liberal Democrats and ASH were planning and to say that his organisation would be responding.

A DoH spokeswoman confirmed Mr Ward had approached the department, but added: "It would have been wholly inappropriate for us to be involved, so no action was taken."

Mr Ward said there was no question of him trying to exert influence. "What would be the

point of trying to up Tessa Jowell (Public Health Minister) to ask her to stop organising by the Democrats?" he asked.

In a formal statement, FIA criticised the tactics of both the Liberal Democrats and ASH. "The FIA cannot understand why ASH has chosen to present their evidence on tobacco sponsorship to the FIA in a highly partisan event jointly sponsored by a minor UK political party," it said.

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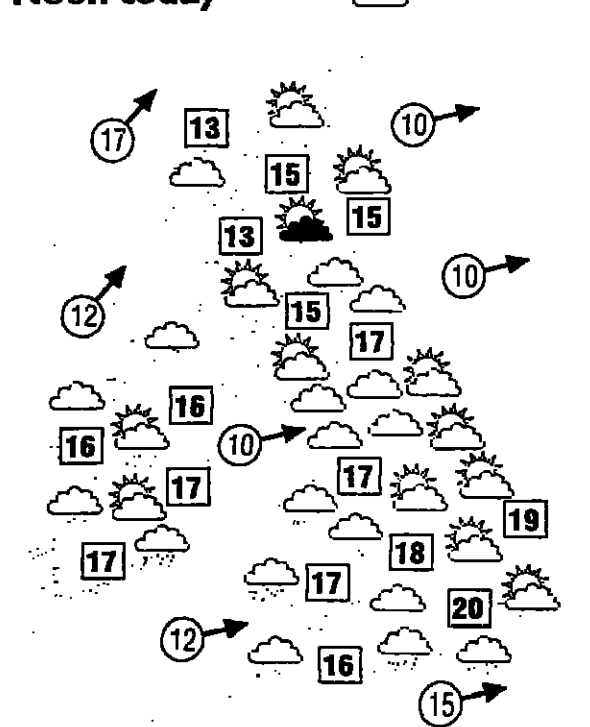
series 2, programmes 1-9 available from 6 July, programmes 10-21 available from 13 July 1998

the complete series 1 is also available on video

BBC

BRITAIN TODAY

Noon today



OUTLOOK

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mostly cloudy day with only a little sunshine breaking through at times, mainly in the east. There will also be some showers which will turn heavy and locally persistent in north-west Scotland later. England and Wales will also be mostly cloudy although there will be some sunshine in eastern England. All parts are at risk of light rain at times, but more especially in the west. Temperatures will be around the seasonal average.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Saturday will see overnight rain and showers clearing from the UK to leave most parts dry with sunny breaks, although rain will move into south-west England later. Sunday will be a dismal day with as rain sweeps east across the country to affect all parts. This will be followed by blustery showers. It will also be windy and cold for July on Sunday. More in the way of sunshine on Monday but still rather windy, showery and cool.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Belfast	21:57	10	05:02	
Birmingham	21:28	10	04:58	
Bristol	21:26	10	05:06	
Glasgow	21:58	10	04:47	
London	21:16	10	04:56	
Manchester	21:25	10	04:54	
Newcastle	21:42	10	04:42	

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	03:01	6.9	15:20	7.1
Liverpool	12:33	5.0	00:53	2.4
Aurumouth	08:28	12.7	20:40	13.1
Hull	07:32	8.4	20:00	8.3
Greenock	01:48	3.3	14:00	3.1
Dun Laoghaire	12:58	3.6		

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

	NO ₂	Pollan	Mod	Good	O ₃
London	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

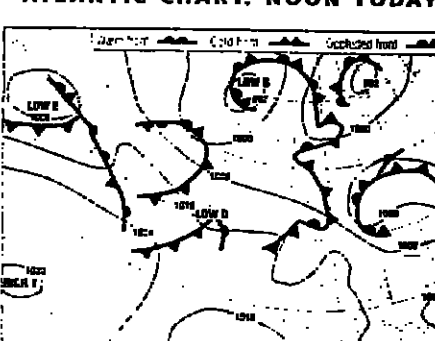
Sun rises	04:55
Sun sets	21:16
Moon rises	21:38
Moon sets	05:54
Last Quarter	July 16

WEATHERLINE

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Followed by the two digits for your area
indicated by the map (right)
Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Low B will move north and fill. Low D will move east. Low E will move quickly east and deepen slightly. High T will remain stationary.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time

	Temp	Wind	Humid	Pres	Cloud
Algeria	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Alexandria	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Amman	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Ankara	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Antwerp	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Athens	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Auckland	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Bahia	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Bangkok	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Barcelona	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Bombay	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Buenos Aires	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Calcutta	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Cairo	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Cardiff	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Cebu	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Chennai	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Copenhagen	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Dakar	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Darwin	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Delhi	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Dhaka	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Dublin	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Durham	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Edinburgh	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Geneva	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Hankow	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Hong Kong	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Houston	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Islamabad	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Jakarta	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Jeddah	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Johannesburg	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Karachi	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Kathmandu	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Kobe	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Kuala Lumpur	24.5	15	65	1015	10
London	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Los Angeles	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Lyons	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Madrid	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Manchester	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Moscow	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Mumbai	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Nairobi	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Paris	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Peking	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Perth	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Port Stanley	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Prague	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Rangoon	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Riyadh	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Sao Paulo	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Seoul	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Shanghai	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Singapore	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Stockholm	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Taipei	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Tokyo	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Toronto	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Ulaanbaatar	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Warsaw	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Wellington	24.5	15	65	1015	10
Yokohama	24.5	15	65	1015	10

YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time

KEY: C:cloudy, Cl:clear, F:fog, Fg:fg, H: haze, A: mist, R: rain, S: sunny, Slt: sleet, Sh: showers, Sn: snow, Th: thunder

	Temp	Wind	Humid	Pres	Cloud
Aberdeen	16	61			
Anglesey	16	61			
Ayr	16	59			
Belfast	16	61			
Birmingham	16	61			
Blackpool	16	61			
Bournemouth	16	61			
Brighton	16	61			
Bristol	16	61			
Cardiff	16	61			
Carlisle	16	61			
Dover	16	61			
Dublin	16	61			
Edinburgh	16	61			
Exeter	16	61			
Glasgow	16	61			
Guernsey	16	61			
Inverness	16	61			
Ipswich	16	61			
Isles of Sc'y	16	61			
Jersey	16	61			
Liverpool	16	61			
London	16	61			
Manchester	16	61			
Newcastle	16	61			
Oxford	16	61			
Plymouth	16	61			
Scarborough	16	61			
Southampton	16	61			
Stirling	16	61			
Stornoway	16	61			
York	16	61			

In the ghost town called Belfast, the only sounds are the sirens

Ulster's new upbeat mood is vanishing fast as a frightened population retreats behind closed doors

BY KIM SENGUPTA
in Belfast

ULSTER WAS doing well. Peace had broken out, the economy was growing and in the buzzing bars and restaurants, people were savouring a new-found freedom from fear. Then came Drumcree '98, and with it the return of the tensions and strife which threatens to undo much of the good work. The economic cost rises the longer the impasse goes on at Drumcree and violence continues across the province. Not unexpectedly, the tourist industry has been the first casualty. One estimate, by Roy Baillie of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board is that up to 20,000 potential new jobs could be lost along with extra annual income of £500m in each of the next five years.

During the cease-fire, the RUC had reported an increase in drunken pedestrians straying from the crowded pavements and falling under cars. There is no danger of that now. The Golden Mile in Belfast, full of bars, pubs, restaurants and night-clubs, has been deserted for the last few nights. The only traffic around has been police vans and fire engines and ambulances with their sirens on. The few people walking do so in groups, hurrying along, and avoiding eye contact.

Around them are rows after rows of shut premises. The very few which were open were almost empty. The Michelin-starred Roscoff restaurant has a normal waiting period of several weeks for a table. Its owners Paul and Jeanne Rankin decided it should be business as usual. But around 10.30pm on Wednesday, when the place should have been bursting at the seams with well-heeled clientele, only two tables were occupied; one by a pair of London journalists. Manager Patricia Prosser said: "The restaurant will now be shut until next week." Two fashionable rival establishments, Shanks and Dean's have also been closed.



Belfast's Golden Mile, usually bustling with pub, club and restaurant customers, is now deserted in the evenings because of the fear the Drumcree stand-off has created

Alan Lewis

other weeks for a table. Its owners Paul and Jeanne Rankin decided it should be business as usual. But around 10.30pm on Wednesday, when the place should have been bursting at the seams with well-heeled clientele, only two tables were occupied; one by a pair of London journalists. Manager Patricia Prosser said: "The restaurant will now be shut until next week." Two fashionable rival establishments, Shanks and Dean's have also been closed.

The shutters are also coming down in the retail sector and last night's late night shopping was cancelled. The big stores may well be able to cope with the loss of revenue, but for Steve Armstrong, who recently opened up a electrical store with his wife, the effect could be financially fatal.

"When you are a small operator, everything is costed down to the finest detail. My wife and I opened this shop because we believed that with the peace agreement there was a

future for us here," he said.

"But we really cannot take many more days like this. If this continues, we will have to think about taking drastic action, maybe even shutting down."

For ordinary people, with no affiliation to either side, the affect on their lives is fundamental. Jenny Phillips, a mature student, said: "I am a Protestant, but I am adamantly non-sectarian, and I have got lots of Catholic friends. At the moment I am not prepared to go into West

(mainly Catholic) Belfast. I blame it, of course, on how dreadful the bus service has become in the last few days, but I know I am also worried about going there. I know I should not be, but I am."

Brian Douglas, 25, an insurance clerk and a father of two said: "Listen, I'm fed up even thinking about the rights of the Orange Order or the nationalists. I hate the fact that for the rest of us this means we have got virtually no public transport in the evenings; the

other day we had no public transport full stop. It would be difficult for people on the mainland to understand what we have to go through just to lead our ordinary lives. People have learned to cope, but they should not have to."

Belfast's international airport unveiled a refurbishment earlier this week, displaying all the trappings that an airport of a prosperous and expanding city should have.

Yesterday, most of the passengers were going out.

Michael Shaughnessy, his wife Eileen and two children were flying to visit relations in Sussex. "We had the holidays coming up and we were undecided whether to spend it over here or go away," said Mr Shaughnessy. "What happened over the last few days made up our minds for us. Take my advice, get out of here before the weekend."

John Stringer, chief executive of the Chamber of Commerce in Northern Ireland, is watching it all with

sadness. He has seen and played a part in achieving the recent economic growth.

"This is such a shame. Things were going very well. We had halved unemployment to 8 per cent and exports have grown for the last four years. We are sending trade missions to the US, India and Europe. People out there want to do business with us."

"If this situation continues, the affect would be very, very, serious. There must be a solution."

Echoes of the 1974 calamity

THE PROSPECT of a loyalist attempt to "paralyse" Northern Ireland, as voiced yesterday by a senior Orange Order spokesman, is one which is taken very seriously by the authorities and indeed everyone else.

The Troubles have been studied with examples of such moves: some of them failed but some are remembered as conspicuous successes for the loyalist cause.

Although the security forces have always regarded the republican terrorists as their primary enemy, the recurring occasions of Protestant eruptions have been among the most destabilising episodes in Northern Ireland's history. IRA activity nearly always took the form of hit-and-run attacks: Protestant action though less organised, can offer a more fundamental threat in threatening to overturn law and order.

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The tactic was first seen in 1972 with huge loyalist rallies protesting against Edward Heath's action of abolishing the Stormont government and thus removing Unionism from power. A number of one-day and two-day strikes in effect brought the province to a halt.

By 1973, however, the idea of such strikes fell from favour as it became obvious that they could not be controlled and undisciplined. While Unionist political leaders called for peaceful and dignified protests, loyalist paramilitary groups brought out the guns while Protestant teenagers took to the streets with stones and petrol-bombs.

There was a strong reaction in the Protestant community when loyalists shot dead a fireman dealing with a burning

shop in Belfast. This happened in Sandy Row, which this week has once again been one of the most violent troublespots.

The tactic was however revived in 1974, when what became known as the Ulster Workers' Council strike succeeded in paralysing Northern Ireland and, after some weeks, bringing down the powersharing Sunningdale executive, led by Brian Faulkner, which included both nationalists and moderate Unionists.

The tactics on that occasion included a number of different elements. Loyalist workers in the power stations ran down electricity production, causing frequent black-outs, while on the streets paramilitary groups built barricades and intimidated those attempting to get to work. Within days most of industry had ceased to function.

The strike was run by a committee which included Unionist politicians, such as the Rev Ian Paisley, loyalist paramilitary leaders and elements of the Orange Order. Most of these came together again in 1977 in an attempt to stage a re-run, but this ended in failure. On that occasion the authorities, learning from the mistakes of 1974, faced down the strikers with a better-organised RUC and new measures which kept the power stations in operation.

The 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement led to a new rash of street activity, but a "Day of Action" once again ended not in dignified protest but in hijacking, rioting and looting. The tactic once again fell into disuse until the Drumcree stand-offs saw its revival.

This time round, the idea of stopping electricity production

has been abandoned as - so far at least - has any idea of bringing daily commercial and business life to a standstill.

Some of the other characteristics of the present action are entirely reminiscent of earlier disputes. Although the protests are relatively disorganised their effectiveness lies in the sheer numbers of Protestants who can be mobilised in times of high tension.

Leaders have called for non-violence, but again paramilitary elements and local youths have used petrol-bombs and other weapons in nightly clashes with the security forces. And again the pressure points are the same: the idea of exhausting the police and army, of threatening to bring ever-larger numbers on to the streets, and of exerting increasing pressure on Unionist moderates.



Brian Faulkner (top) and Ian Paisley, key figures in the 1974 strike

Suicide rate rise is downside of peace

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

HEALTH professionals are concerned about an unforeseen "peace dividend" in Northern Ireland - a significant rise in suicide rates.

Suicides, especially among males aged 16-24, are outstripping road deaths in this age group; the Samaritans have launched an advertising campaign aimed at young people.

The British Medical Journal reported recently that figures indicate that 33 young people committed suicide in Belfast in 1997 but that more than 20 have done so in the first six months of this year.

Another survey, by the University of Ulster, said 16 people in Northern Ireland were attempting suicide each day but this figure was challenged by

The Samaritans. "We are bewildered by this statistic," said a spokeswoman. "It does not come from us, as our latest figures are for 1996."

She added that suicide rates did fall in times of war and rise again afterwards. "With peace, people have the chance to focus on themselves as individuals and look towards. In times of war, if things are not going well, you can think 'It's the war, I'm not going mad'. And, let's face it, in troubled times there is a sense of community, but once that breaks down your feelings come back."

Liz Sayce, policy director of MIND, said it was concerned at the rise in suicides. "It's possible that danger gives people a channel for their distress. We hope, as the transition in Northern Ireland takes its course, the figures stabilise again."



SOUTH PARK STARTS TONIGHT

11.40PM

Priest's sex crimes blamed on Nazi camp

THE ROMAN Catholic Church has rejected compensation claims made by victims of a paedophile priest after suggesting he was twisted by his time in a Nazi prison camp.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham stated that "daws in society or the Second World War" may have given rise to Father Eric Taylor's reign of abuse at an orphanage in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The priest, now 78, was branded "a disgrace to his cloth" by a judge at Warwick Crown Court in April when he was jailed for seven years after being convicted of 18 sexual assaults on young boys.

Having spent time in the infamous Stalag 13, Father Taylor was ordained in 1954 and ran the Father Hudson's Society orphanage in Coleshill, Warwickshire from 1958.

One anonymous victim, now 50, accused the Archdiocese of trying to deflect attention from the fact that they had employed a paedophile.

"The letter is an insult to anybody who served in either the First or Second World Wars," he said. "The church are blaming everybody and everything except themselves."

A spokesman for the Archdiocese said the letter was "a response to specific legal questions", and refused to comment further.



A wheelchair-bound fan sports a Tammy Wynette badge on his hat at a thanksgiving service at St James's church Piccadilly, in London, for British fans of the queen of country music, who died in April, aged 55

Nicola Kurtz

Readers face £300 British Library fee

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

British Library will provoke an outcry from library users who see it as a tax on knowledge. Brian Lake, secretary of the Regular Readers Group, said: "If American academics are charged here, will the American Library of Congress start charging people from Britain?"

The board had been expected to float the idea of charging after complaining that its £80m grant left it £20m short of the cash required for conservation and acquisitions "at a minimum acceptable level." After a further three years of predicted standstill funding, the shortfall will be £20m per year, the paper says, and that does not include money needed for developing a digital archive.

It is the second time in recent weeks that the government has had a gun held to its head by the arts world. Royal Opera House chairman Sir Colin Southgate has said he will close Covent Garden unless its £15m grant is doubled.

Bringing in charges at the

tural institution, but "an essential resource for science and business".

Mr Lang is keen to stress that the Library is no longer just a research base for historians and novelists, as it was for celebrated users such as Marx, Lenin and Dickens, but a business resource for patent agents, consultants, industrialists and others seeking to make money. In a typical week there are 9,000 visits to the Library's reading rooms.

The board under chairman John Ashworth, former director of the London School of Economics, proposes three charging options:

- Up to 10 free visits a year before charging readers, and then imposing a quarterly or annual charge per reader;
- Charging differentially between commercial and non-commercial readers;
- Charging for weekday use, but not Saturday use.

The paper forecasts that a £300 a year charge would generate £3m to £6m a year, but it is understood the board is averse to charging irregular users and for individual visits.

Readers have until the end of August to respond to the library's consultation paper - copies available at the library.

Hospital bugs hit one patient in ten

NEGLECT OF basic hygiene in hospitals is contributing to the spread of bugs which infect one in 10 patients while they are in hospital, a doctor claimed yesterday.

More care is lavished on producing a pork pie than preventing patients from catching hospital infections, Dr Jo Kearns told the annual conference of the British Medical Association in Cardiff.

Nurses brought infections into hospitals when they came to work in uniform and theatre staff went into the canteen in their theatre gowns because of the lack of changing facilities, taking germs back into the operating theatre with them, he said. Even Diana, Princess of Wales, had been allowed to watch a heart operation with her hair hanging out.

It is estimated that 60,000 people a year pick up a new infection in hospital, according to a report published last year by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Dr Kearns, a member of the BMA's occupational

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

health committee said the NHS needed an enforceable code of practice for health and safety as there was in the food industry. He called for the chief executive of the NHS to take responsibility for patient safety, rather than leaving it up to individual trusts.

Dr Kearns, who used to work in the food industry, said: "There is no identifiable chain of command imposing a solid infection control discipline that would accord to patients the care lavished on a pork pie."

Earlier, there had been speculation that the association might elect a woman to the coveted post for the first time in its 166-year history.

IN BRIEF

Menace of poisoned mussels

DINERS smitten by mussels have raised fears of a food poisoning menace not seen in Britain for 50 years. The 49 people who ate at two London restaurants suffered nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and feverishness. All had been served dishes of mussels originating from the UK. Doctors diagnosed Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning arising from poisons called phycotoxins, produced by small marine organisms.

Lesbian killer cleared of murder

A WOMAN who stabbed her Swiss lover to death after she danced erotically with a man on New Year's Eve was cleared of her murder at the Old Bailey yesterday. But Barbara Hughes, 33, from south London, was jailed for four years after the jury found her guilty of the manslaughter of Romana Abban. Hughes, originally from Bolton, said she was furious when she saw Ms Abban rubbing herself against a man while dancing in a wine bar.

Rail strike threat lifted

THE threat of a strike by drivers on Great Western Trains ended when a dispute over the release of delegates to a union conference was settled. Aslef members had voted for a 24-hour strike after a delegate was refused permission to go to the union's conference. Secretary Lew Adams said: "We have received a guarantee... that... conference delegates will be released to attend."

Getty to keep Chaucer in library

THE BILLIONAIRE philanthropist Sir Paul Getty, who on Wednesday bought an edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* at auction for a world record £4.6 million, will keep it in the library at his Buckinghamshire estate - to which scholars have access - until he decides whether to exhibit it. It was printed in 1477 by William Caxton.

WILLIAM HAGUE

"The poll tax brought relations between Conservative governments and local councils to their lowest point"

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Terrorist refuses to speak for Kinsella

HOPES OF freedom for a potentially innocent IRA "bomber" hung in the balance yesterday when a self-confessed terrorist reneged on a promise to testify at his appeal.

Pairic MacFhloinn, who masterminded the 1993 Warrington gasworks bombing, was to have told a court that John Kinsella had been tricked into hiding explosives for his gang.

But, under pressure from the IRA, he told Kinsella's defence team that he would not attend the hearing at the high-security Crown Court in Woolwich, south London. Nor would he give evidence by video-link from his cell at Portlaoise jail in the Republic of Ireland.

Kinsella is serving 16 years for hiding a bag containing Semtex, weapons and detonators for three IRA volunteers in Nottingham before they bombed the gasworks in February 1993. No one died in the attack but a policeman was shot and badly injured.

Kinsella has always claimed he thought the bag contained stolen silver - a claim supported by the fact that he hid it under a spot in an allotment where bonfires were regularly lit. And, once police told him about the bombing, he led them to the bag because it was next to a children's playground.

MacFhloinn issued a statement in March 1995, with the permission of the IRA Army Council, in which he said: "John is not a member of the IRA and never has been a member of that organisation. He had absolutely no idea what myself and my comrades were involved in."

"He never even suspected that we were republicans. As a republican, activist, I would never permit non-volunteers to be aware of the activities I was engaged in."

MacFhloinn, who was given 35 years for conspiring to cause explosions, was interviewed in prison by police and lawyers for Kinsella and promised to testify at his trial.

However, in a letter to the de-

BY STEVE BOGGAN

fence, he wrote: "Unfortunately, the movement has decided that I should not give evidence at John Kinsella's appeal. They feel that as a convicted terrorist I would not be believed."

"Personally, I believe that the opposite would be the case and I argued strenuously but their final reply was negative."

Anthony Scrivener QC, for Kinsella, said: "MacFhloinn, who was an acknowledged and proud member of the IRA, was willing to give evidence for the defence."

"He gave a series of statements indicating that this appellant was not a member of the IRA. [Kinsella, a well-known petty criminal] may have been eager to make a few pounds, but he was not in this cell and was not told what was going on."

Applying to Lord Justice Beldam, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Longmore, to have MacFhloinn's evidence read out in his absence, Mr Scrivener said that evidence "would purport that Kinsella was not a member of the IRA; that they did not bring him into their inner circle; that he was duped for £200; that Kinsella acted in a way no IRA activist would act - by disclosing the holdall to the police."

Further, his statements say IRA members never dispute their membership of the IRA.

Kinsella has always said he agreed to bury the bag at an allotment on the outskirts of Nottingham as a favour to his nephew, Denis Kinsella, who had introduced him to two "friends", MacFhloinn and another terrorist called Timmins, who was never caught.

Mr Scrivener also asked the court to rule as inadmissible holiday photographs taken of his son, John Junior, standing in front of a memorial to a dead IRA volunteer nine years before his original trial.

The photographs were the only evidence police found to link him to the IRA but he claims they were taken innocently.

The hearing continues.



Guarding Westminster Abbey's West Gate are statues of Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, Dr Martin Luther King and Archbishop Oscar Romero Brian Harris

Latter-day Christian martyrs honoured

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE UNSUNG HEROES AND HEROINES WHO DIED FOR THEIR FAITH THIS CENTURY

<p>Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Born in 1906, he was a German Protestant pastor and part of the Confessing Church founded in reaction to the pro-Nazi German Protestant Church. Executed by the Gestapo after a failed putsch against Hitler.</p>	<p>Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia. Born in 1864, she was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria and cousin and sister-in-law of Nicholas II. A devout member of the Russian Orthodox Church, she was killed by Bolsheviks during the 1918 revolution.</p>	<p>Esther John. Born in 1929, she moved to Pakistan after India was partitioned, and became a Presbyterian evangelist. Found dead in her bed in 1980 she is thought to have been murdered by a Muslim relative.</p>	<p>Martin Luther King. A champion of black civil rights in the US, he won respect worldwide for his non-violent methods. Was assassinated in 1968. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.</p>	<p>Maximilian Kolbe. Born in Poland, went on to become a Roman Catholic priest. Was jailed by Nazis and killed in Auschwitz by lethal injection in 1941 after volunteering to take the place of a condemned man.</p>
<p>Manche Masemola. A member of the Pedi tribe in South Africa, she converted to Anglicanism and was killed, aged 16, by her parents in 1928. She was buried on a remote hillside.</p>	<p>Janani Luwum. The Anglican Archbishop of Uganda who was arrested in 1977 during the rule of Idi Amin, along with two Christian Cabinet members. He was tried and executed in the same year. His body was never found.</p>	<p>Oscar Romero. In 1977 he became Archbishop of San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador. Romero, who had committed himself to the persecuted, was shot dead in 1982 while celebrating mass.</p>	<p>Lucian Tapiedi. A teacher and Anglican in New Guinea, he was killed by Japanese invaders in 1942 after he had refused to abandon the missionaries with whom he worked. His killer later converted to Christianity.</p>	<p>Wang Zhiming. Born in 1907, he was a pastor in China's Yunnan region. He fell victim to the persecution of Christians during the Cultural Revolution, and was arrested in 1969. He was executed at a mass rally in 1973.</p>

rich Bonhoeffer is there as well. There are 10 statues of individuals, all carved in gleaming French Richmond limestone, representing a diversity of Christian denominations from all continents. Each died for his or her faith this century. A further four carvings represent truth, justice, mercy and peace.

"There has never been a time in Christian history when someone, somewhere, has not died rather than compromise with the powers of oppression, tyranny and unbelief," said Dr Anthony Harvey, Westminster's sub-dean, at yesterday's unveiling service attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. "But our century, which has been the most violent in recorded history, has created a roll of martyrs far exceeding that of any previous period."

Those represented were selected by a committee of senior Abbey figures. When an individual was not a member of the Church of England, the committee liaised with senior figures within the relevant denominations. The statues, designed by Tim Crawley, are supposed to be representative rather than complete. "We are trying to say that this is a living church, that things are happening today and that we are moving forward," said a spokeswoman.

Lesbian couple to have Web baby

A BRITISH lesbian couple are planning to have a "designer" baby after turning to the Internet to find the ideal father.

The solicitor and the teacher paid £280 for the man's sperm which they chose from a list of donors on a Californian company's Web site.

The couple, known only as Jane and Sarah, are now waiting for the package of frozen sperm to arrive in the post from the company NewLife.

Customers can choose the height, weight, age, nationality, income level and personality of the child's biological father. A spokesman for the NewLife company said yesterday that they did not comment on individual cases but matched up people with donors whether they were gay or straight.

The pair said they turned to the Web page after they exhausted every other avenue to have a child for three years.

"I have wanted to have a baby for as long as I can remember," said Sarah, a 32-year-old solicitor. "For Jane and me to have a baby would make my world complete. We have so much love to give it would be a shame for it to go to waste."

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) warned that the success rate of the process is low and is also fraught with health dangers including the risk of contracting HIV from the sperm.

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

Exam standards come under expert scrutiny

EXAM WATCHDOGS announced new checks on A-level and GCSE standards yesterday, in an attempt to quell annual claims that public examinations are getting easier.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, which regulates all national public exams, said it was setting up independent panels of experts to ensure easier. Rising numbers of passes and improving grades have led to annual claims that standards are falling. Traditionalists use improving results to argue that exams must be getting easier. Teachers and examiners say teaching has improved and students are working harder.

The QCA has been monitoring exams in several subjects over the past two years. The first results of the process, reports on GCSEs in French, geography, religious studies and physical education, and A-levels in German, history, physics and government and politics, will be published later this year.

Last year, 87.1 per cent of A-level entries were awarded a pass, up from 69 per cent in 1975. A record 54.4 per cent of GCSE entries resulted in a C grade or better. This year's results are due out next month.

Dr Nick Tate, QCA chief executive, said: "The 1996 Standards over Time report was a major step towards ensuring that GCSE and A-level standards are safeguarded QCA's systematic work in this area, guided by advice from the new high-powered independent panels, will help us keep GCSE and A-level standards consistently high across different exam boards and from year to year."

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BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

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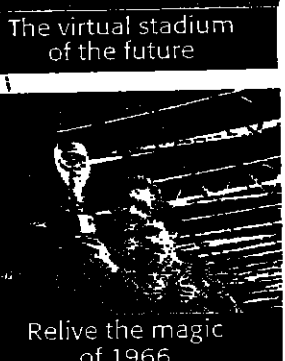
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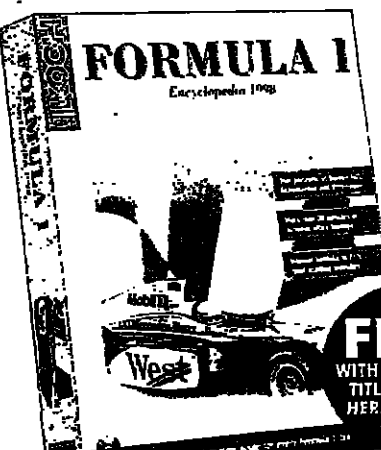


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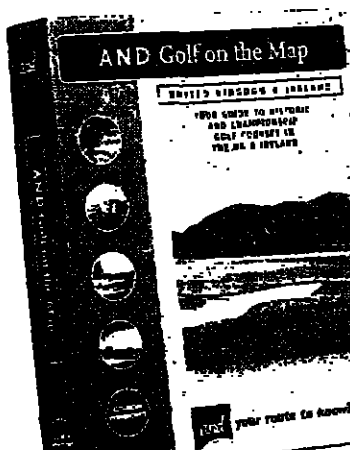
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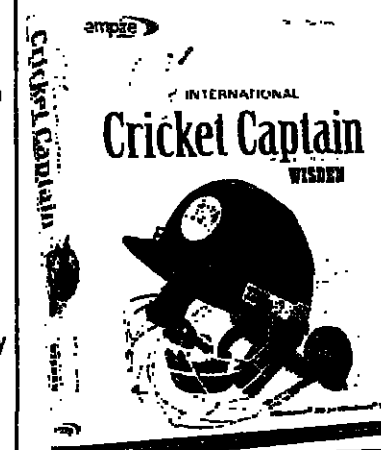
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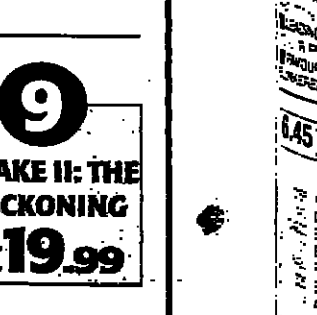
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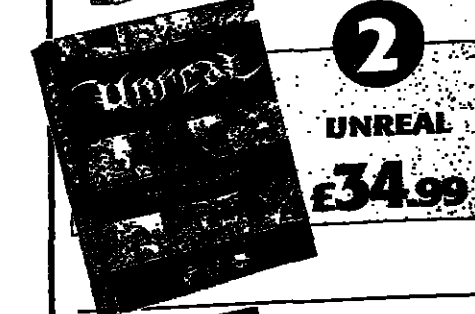
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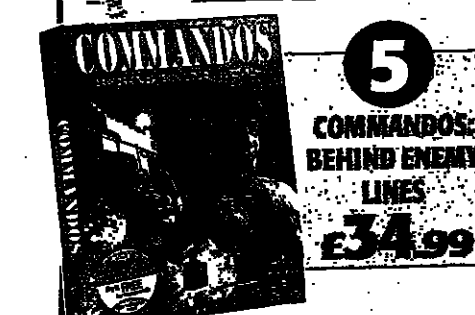
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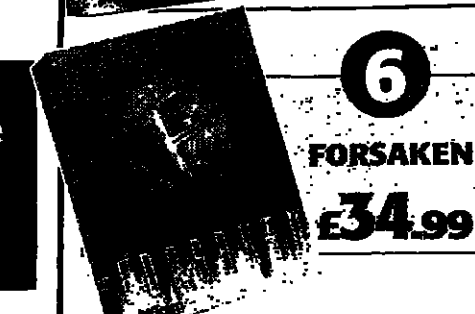
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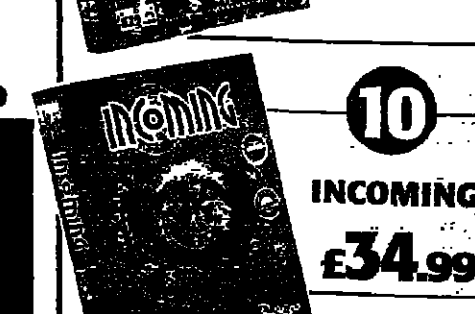
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A measure of vintage Clarke makes up for Blunkett's gruel

EDUCATION AND Employment Questions yesterday were rather thin gruel. There was little for even the most assiduous Labour backbencher to savour.

The Secretary of State, David Blunkett, and his team of ministers seem to have invented a whole new series of terminology which no one else seems to understand. Stephen Byers, one of his up-and-coming deputies, waxed unlyrical about something called the "Area Costs Adjustment Factor".

Alan Howarth, the turncoat former Tory, now new Labour junior minister, was looking forward to "family-friendly employment policies" which were a "complex story"

but he was going to discuss them all at the "National Work Life Forum".

David Willetts, the opposition spokesman, complicated matters further with his two brains in overdrive. The trouble with brainy people is that most of us cannot understand them. Mr Willetts would get on better with half a brain simply by putting the boot in. Instead, he bumbled on cheerfully about percentages, proportions of GDP and PSBR, which were too high or too low, and how they were all much better under the Tories.

Thank goodness, then, that I was fortunate to have been allowed by the chairman of the Press Lobby to attend the Press Gallery lunch at

which the guest of honour was Kenneth Clarke, the former Tory chancellor, now being thoroughly irreverent as he enjoys his new experience as a backbencher.

The wonderful ways of the Press Gallery are still new to me, but it seems, on the basis of yesterday, that the best speeches are often made outside the Chamber. Assorted lobby correspondents and MPs were entertained to vintage Clarke complete with Hush Puppies, ill-fitting, untidy suit, cigars, large paunch and healthy appetite.

We were reminded of some of the highlights when Mr Clarke was in the news over the years. His daughter once commented that he was

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

well suited to be a Chancellor of the Exchequer because he was always tight with cash and kept her short of pocket money. One newspaper once described him as "the think-

ing man's larger lout" describing a typical Clarke menu for getting through the day: breakfast of coffee and more coffee; lunch - large; dinner - even bigger.

Mr Clarke took the trip down memory lane in good part and only complained that most of these stories were inaccurate and that he could not stand lager. This had caused a nightmare on the rubber chicken circuit. Pints of overflowing, fizzy lager were proffered by blue-rinse Tory ladies, anxious to get in his good books, when his favourite tipple is actually Federation Bitter.

Mr Clarke said he was "now in the fourth and most irresponsible phase" of his career: a backbencher.

He described how he "walks the narrow line between sycophancy and rebellion" but prefers this to the alternative life of retired cabinet ministers, who are called upon "to chair some mind-boggling committee on something the Government wants to close down".

Mr Clarke believes that he is now a "middle-ranking younger statesman" whose views are not sought except on Europe because "I can be relied on to say something disagreeable". He told us that he usually speaks on this issue abroad because if he does it in Britain it is regarded as a challenge to William Hague. He has no longing for "the thankless task of being Leader of

the Opposition, which William is doing rather well" and said that the Tory Party needs a leadership election like a hole in the head. Such an event would reduce the party to a "heap of irredeemable rubble".

On Europe and the economy, Mr Clarke reduced the issues in his usual broad-brush style, which marks him out as one of the lovable rogues of British politics. On the economy his theme was that of Cassandra: "It's all coming to a sticky end and the public will see this when unemployment rises and wakes them all up from their holiday away from politics."

Judging by recent events their alarm clock is just about to go off.

NHS will get more cash, says Dobson

FRANK DOBSON announced yesterday that the National Health Service will get a cash boost in next Tuesday's Comprehensive Spending Review.

He said the Government had already put into the NHS £2bn more than the Conservatives had planned to and £1bn more than the Liberal Democrats had promised. "That isn't enough and that's why we will shortly be announcing more money for the NHS for the next three years."

While attacking the Conservatives for their post-war lack of support for the NHS, the Secretary of State was forced to answer accusations from the Tories of fiddling waiting list figures. Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative spokeswoman on health, said Mr Dobson cared more about image than the health of the nation.

The head-to-head between two of the most bruising and entertaining parliamentary performers veered from political body blows to blowing kisses across the floor of the House.

Mr Dobson said that he had inherited a "two-tier system that was underfunded, overworked, over-stretched - only managing to keep going because of the dedication of staff who have been battered from pillar to post".

But, rejecting the attack from Mr Dobson on her party's stewardship of the NHS, Ms Widdecombe insisted that spending and the number of patients treated had risen between 1979 and 1997.

HEALTH
BY DAISY SAMPSON

"Far from being 'saved', our health service has entered a period of crisis," she told the House.

She attacked the Government for "record waiting lists, fiddled figures, clinical freedom under threat, hospital cuts and closures, GPs coerced into collectives and all to the backdrop of the slickest spin-doctor public misinformation campaign since the formation of the NHS 50 years ago".

The Conservative accused the Government of breaking its early pledge to cut waiting lists by allowing them to rise to 1.3 million - "a queue for beds that would stretch more than twice round the M25".

A Worcestershire trust, said Ms Widdecombe, had been told to cut 759 patients from its waiting lists "without those patients being given the treatment originally deemed clinically necessary".

"Patients are left waiting in pain, to avoid the pain of political embarrassment to the Government," she told MPs.

"The picture to emerge from this sorry tale of sordid deception is of a government that will commit any act of manipulation, spin any convenient sophistry and break any trust to present what must be seen as not only a deeply misleading picture of their waiting-list disaster, but also a highly dangerous practice that can only be harmful to the well-being of patients."

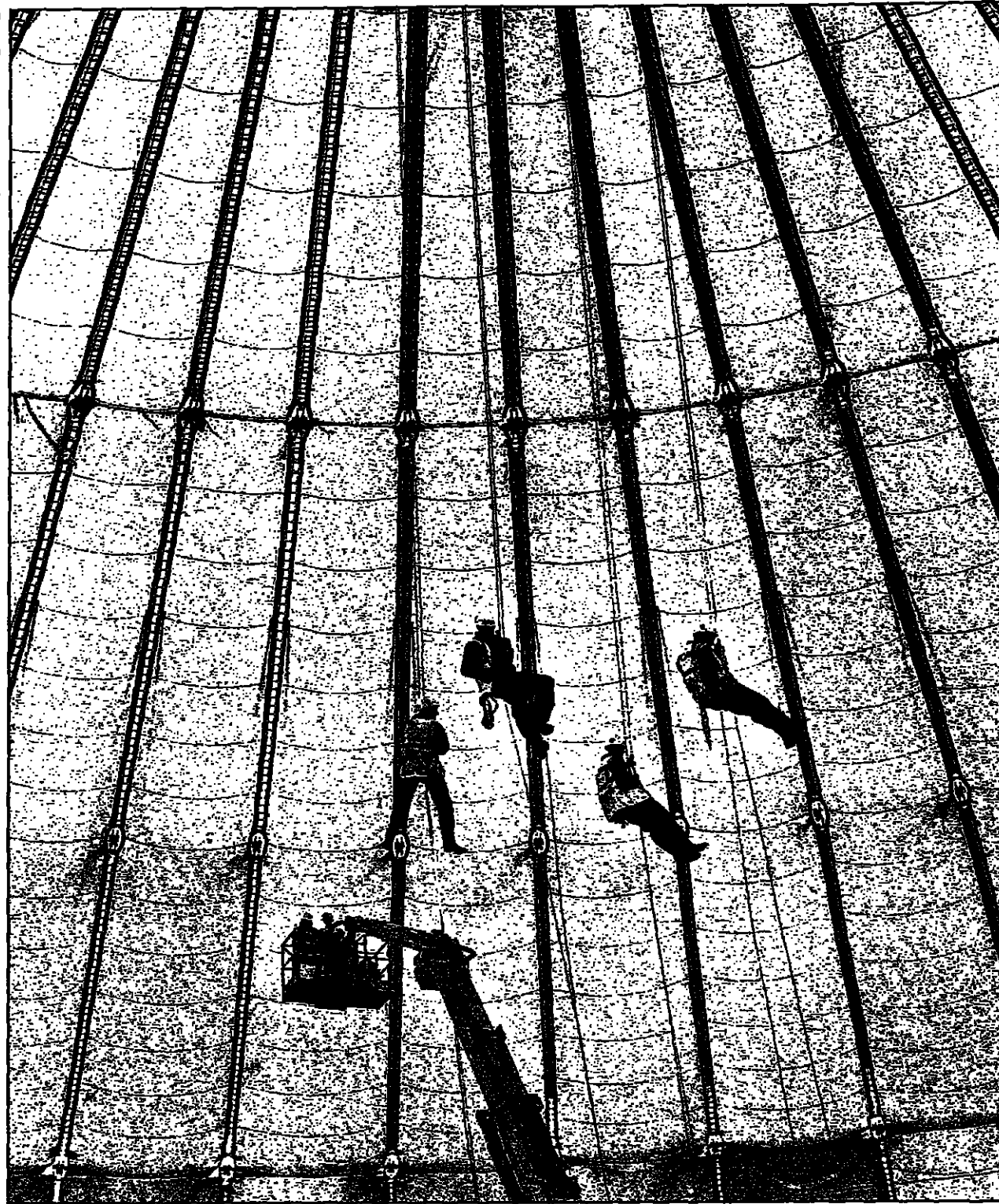
"They told us that waiting lists were falling, but in fact they have been caught red-handed chucking patients out of the queue," she pronounced.

Both Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, and Ms Widdecombe pleaded with the Secretary of State to agree that it would cost a minimum of "just below £9bn" to maintain NHS services at current levels, with no improvements. But he would not be drawn, with only a few days to go before the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement.

In a speech littered with interventions from Mr Dobson, the Deputy Speaker, Michael Martin, eventually asked Ms Widdecombe not to "entice" the Secretary of State into intervening.

"Being told not to tempt the Rt Hon Member may prove difficult [advice] to follow," Ms Widdecombe told the Chamber. Before long Mr Dobson was blowing his opponent kisses across the Despatch Box.

However, echoing her Leader's devastating attack on Tony Blair during Wednesday's Prime Minister's Questions, Ms Widdecombe ended: "This fiddling, cheating, gerrymandering, dissembling, spin-doctoring, bullying, arrogant Government has gone too far. Running our health service for the benefit of PR and not patients has come to be the defining feature of this Government, for whom getting headlines is more important than results."



Absellers drop in at the Millennium Dome's topping-out ceremony last month

John Voss

Mandelson silent over who will run Dome

MILLENNIUM DOME

BY BARRIE CLEMENT

PETER MANDELSON refused to be drawn yesterday on whether he will still be in charge of the Millennium Dome when it opens so he can "personally take responsibility for its success or failure".

With a Cabinet reshuffle expected next week, Mr Mandelson would not commit himself to a continuing link with the £275m project.

Whether that was because he expects to move from his position as Minister without Portfolio to a Cabinet job, or because his future is in question over "Lobbygate", he did not explain. "It is a matter for the Prime Minister," he told the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport.

Attempts by the Conservative MP Christopher Fraser to unsettle him failed. Wasn't it all a "dog's breakfast"? Wasn't he "flying with the wind"? Mr Mandelson conceded that the company responsible for the Dome had only received sponsorship for 5 out of the 14 exhibition zones.

Mr Mandelson revealed that a committee of civil servants had been set up to ponder what happens to the structure after 2000. He promised a preliminary report by the end of the month on the feasibility of a range of proposals.

Mr Fraser was concerned about visitors to the Dome enduring London's rush hour, being crushed against people they would prefer not to be crushed against.

Mr Mandelson replied that there were one or two people he could think of who would be in that category.

THE HOUSE



McDonagh in top Labour job

LABOUR'S FIRST woman general secretary was appointed yesterday after a full year of speculation. The Independent predicted last spring that Margaret McDonagh, then the party's head of campaigns, would replace Tom Sawyer. Tony Blair said he was delighted at the appointment, calling Ms McDonagh, 37, "a formidable operator".

Apology for the Birmingham Six

FORMER TORY MP David Evans apologised to the Birmingham Six at the High Court after claiming they were guilty even though they had been cleared by the Court of Appeal. Mr Evans, who lost his Welwyn Hatfield seat at the last election, paid an undisclosed but "appropriate" sum to settle a libel action.

Today

■ Commons: Proceedings of the Landmines Bill; Adjournment debate. Local Authorities and Asylum Seekers.
■ Lords: Consideration of Commons Amendments to the Data Protection Bill; Second Reading of Pensions (Amendment) Bill; Committee Stage of Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill.

Land-mine Bill 'betrays the memory of Diana'

MINISTERS WERE last night accused of betraying the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, who lent her name to a ban on land-mines, as it emerged that the Government's ban would not stop British troops from handling the weapons.

Campaign groups and opposition politicians said the Landmines Bill, due for debate in the House of Commons today, would not ratify the Ottawa Treaty signed last year by Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development.

Foreign Office officials insisted yesterday that without qualification the ban could never become law at all.

The treaty prohibited any ac-

LAND-MINES

BY FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

tivity associated with land-mines other than their clearance and destruction. But the Bill would allow British troops working with others not party to the treaty to store, transport and transfer anti-personnel landmines. Soldiers would not be able to handle them themselves, but they would be able to advise on how they should be laid.

A clause allowing them to do so seems to have been added because of fears that British soldiers working with other troops on Nato operations would be unduly restricted by a total ban.

The Government's unilateral ban on land-mines allowed the Secretary of State for Defence to authorise the use of mines in times of emergency. However, the Ottawa Treaty would not allow such an exception.

Last night, the United Kingdom Working Group on Landmines said that loopholes in the Bill would undermine the international ban.

Ian Doucet, spokesman for the group, said: "The Government cannot change its mind at this late stage and weaken a ban which has been agreed by 126 countries. To back out on a total ban is an insult to the memory of Princess Diana."

Opposition MPs will attack

the Government on the issue in the Commons today. Last night Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat Defence spokesman, said the Bill drove a "horse and cart" through the Ottawa agreement.

Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "We want a truly global ban."

A Foreign Office spokesman said that under the treaty British servicemen on Nato operations could be liable for prosecution if they handled mines on joint operations. He insisted that British servicemen would not be allowed to use mines or to assist anyone else to do so, claiming that the criticism was "a travesty of the Government's position".

MPs may miss holidays over university fees

THE GOVERNMENT'S business managers were last night threatening to make MPs sit through the early part of the summer recess to force its controversial Bill on tuition fees through in the face of stiff opposition in the Lords.

Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons, told MPs the House of Commons will rise on 31 July, but warned they could be required to delay their summer holidays as the House could sit into the first week of August.

The statement came as students planned a campaign of legal action to challenge Government plans to impose fees.

EDUCATION

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The National Union of Students said it was consulting lawyers and would be seeking undergraduates prepared to launch a test case in the wake of a Lord's rebellion over fees for Scottish universities.

Ms Taylor's threat was intended to underline to Tory, Liberal Democrat and some rebel Labour peers in the Lords the Government's determination not to back down on the Teaching and Higher Education Bill.

The Government said last night it will use a ruling by the

Speaker's office on Monday in the Commons to reverse a defeat in the Lords. Ministers cannot use the Parliament Act to insist on the passage of the Bill after a year's delay because the measure was introduced in the Lords. That has left ministers with a dilemma - to carry on and risk losing the Bill altogether, or to concede defeat.

Ms Taylor yesterday said the Speaker, advised by the clerks, had ruled that the Bill was a financial measure, because it will have an impact on public spending, removing the right of peers to block it. But the Lords could not be forced to accept the Speaker's ruling.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

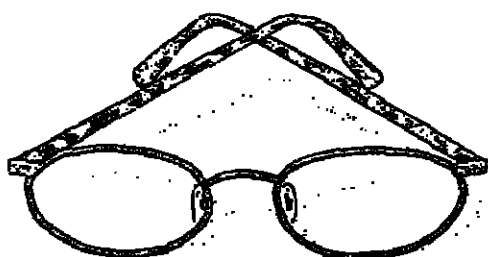
Child murder

IN ANSWER to a question from Tom Cox (Lab, Tooting) Alan Michael, a Home Office minister, announced yesterday that, in 1994, 52 children under 14 were killed by their parents. In 1995 the number was 46, and in 1996 58 were killed by their parents.

Phone bugs

THE HOME Secretary, Jack Straw, revealed in a written answer to Malcolm Bruce (Lib Dem, Gordon) that over 1,000 telephone bugs were authorised by his department in 1997.

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Tourists face tax on the seaside

Curbs on FO study grants

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A GOVERNMENT department is poised to drop its support for a system of secretive official grants which have benefited people criticised by human rights campaigners.

In a move which further questions the "ethical" foreign policy of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, the Department for International Development (DFID) is considering pulling out of the Chevening Scholarships.

A total of £32m was spent last year on the awards - funded largely by the Foreign Office and the DFID. The money allowed 1,800 foreign students to come and study at some of Britain's leading universities.

The Foreign Office, which selects the students, admits it targets people likely to be important in their own countries with the intention of spreading British influence. It refuses to reveal the identities of the recipients.

Earlier this year *The Independent* revealed one of the recipients was the Colombian politician Alvaro Uribe Velez, tipped to be president after 2002 and criticised by human rights campaigners for expressing support for vigilante groups.

Last night, a source close to Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, said: "Human rights is a concern. So is the question of whether these awards do anything to eliminate poverty," the source said.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said last night: "The aim of the scholarships is to bring to this country leaders and opinion-formers from all sorts of countries."

"This includes countries whose human rights records are less than ideal. But the idea is to expose them to multi-party democracy and freedom of expression."

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading for the coast could find themselves having to pay a "bucket and spade tax" if proposals outlined yesterday by the water watchdog are adopted.

The Ofwat National Customer Council is calling for a tax on tourism in popular holiday destinations to help pay for the huge cost of cleaning up Britain's beaches and rivers. At the moment this is met from household water bills.

The tax would be levied by local authorities and paid by those local businesses that benefit from tourism. But it would almost certainly be passed on in the shape of higher prices for holidaymakers - from hotel rooms and donkey rides to flip-flops and fish and chips.

Tourists in the West Country could be the hardest hit. South West Water has the most coastline of any water company, and the highest bills, averaging £354 a household. Part of this would be met by the tax.

By contrast, tourists heading for London would be much bet-

ter off. Thames Water has no bathing beaches in its area and hence the lowest average domestic bill in the country, at £201. Tourists in Severn Trent's area, which includes Shakespeare country, would also benefit because the district is landlocked.

Sheila Reiter, chairwoman of the Ofwat customer council, accepted that the tax could be difficult to administer and might not be universally popular. But she said: "Cleaner rivers and beaches are national assets." She added that there was a strong case for environmental improvements being met from either general taxation or from a tourist tax.

Businesses in areas heavily dependent on tourism reacted with alarm. Barry Groves, chief executive of the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce, said: "A lot of businesses on the island are already struggling to survive because there just isn't enough wealth around and transport costs are higher. Imposing another tax would be the final nail in the coffin for a lot of firms."

The bill for cleaning up Britain's coastline could reach £10bn, according to some estimates. South West Water, which has a third of the country's bathing beaches but only 3 per cent of its population, is spending £1bn on its coastal clean-up programme. "In principle we would support any measures that helped our customers, but at the end of the day this is a matter for local and central government to decide," said a spokesman.

Water pay row, page 18
Business Outlook, page 19



Children playing at Kynance Cove, Cornwall, where holidaymakers may be hardest hit by a 'bucket and spade tax' David Swanborough

Grandmother, 71, jailed for community charge debts

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

CAMPAIGNERS expressed outrage last night after a disabled grandmother suffering from Parkinson's disease was jailed for failing to pay her community charge debts.

Betty Jack, 71, was taken crying from her home by bailiffs after magistrates imposed a three-month prison sentence.

Mrs Jack, who uses a wheelchair, was released from jail after a couple of hours after a judge granted her bail. But last night her supporters said the magistrates' decision was unbelievable.

"I have done around 1,000

poll tax cases over the years and this is undoubtedly one of the worst," said Mrs Jack's solicitor, Richard Wise, who is now seeking a judicial review of the case.

Mrs Jack was jailed by Doncaster magistrates for failing to pay £529 in poll tax relating to 1990-92, the first two years the

poll tax operated in England. The suspended sentence had been hanging over her since 1994 and was dependent on her making regular payments.

Neighbours watched as she was led from her home in Edlington, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, on Tuesday morning and taken to New Hall women's

prison near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Bailiffs were so concerned when they called at her home they rang the council to check they had the right woman.

"Betty can't walk and she's just had both her hips replaced," said one neighbour. "When the men came she only

had time to grab her Zimmer frame and then they took her away. It's disgusting."

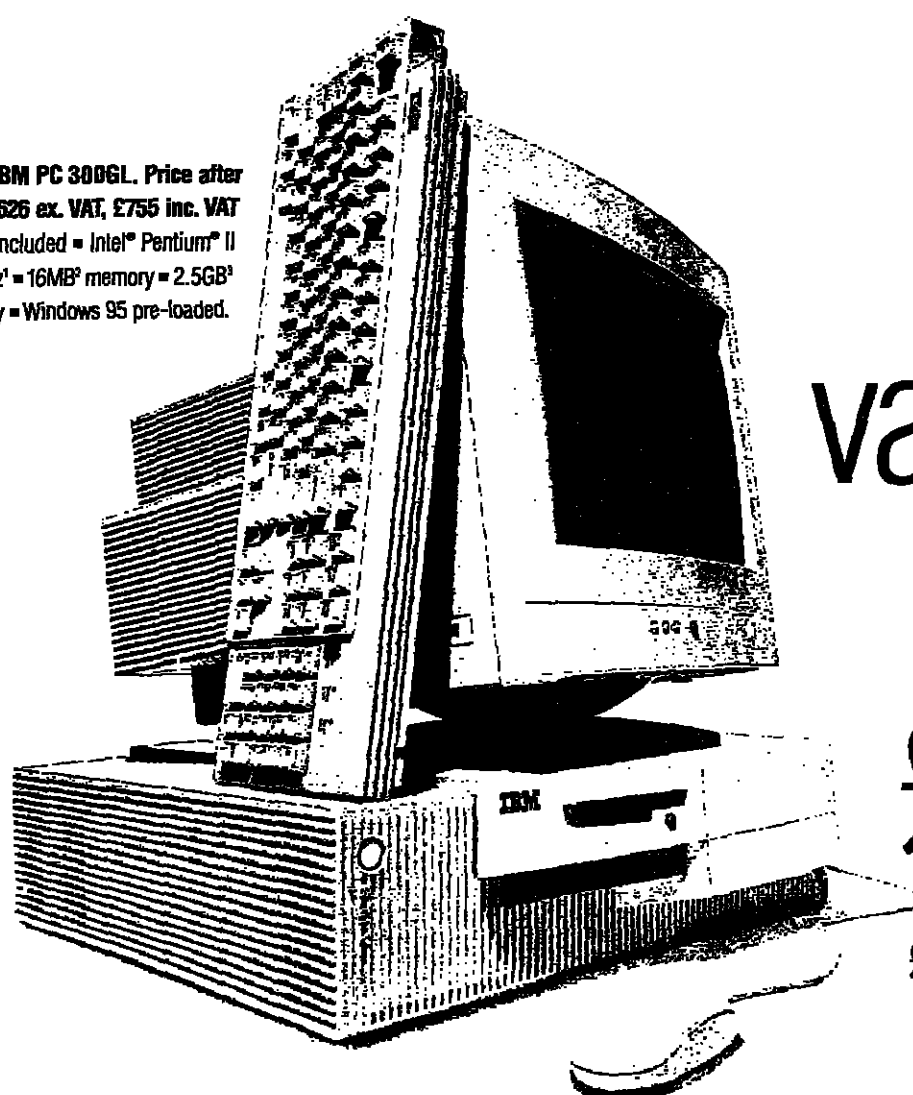
Last night Doncaster council defended its decision to prosecute Mrs Jack. "The court was aware of her disabilities and took everything into account before they imposed the sentence," said Stephanie Cunningham.

"Jail is the last resort and we do try every other avenue before passing cases on to court."

Alyson Rose, a spokeswoman for Help the Aged, said: "It is [incredible] that they could even think of using jail. Even if she had to pay £1 a week for the rest of her life it would be better than this."

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Parents and doctors blamed for baby deaths

ONE IN 10 babies who die suddenly and unexpectedly in their first year might have been saved if their parents and doctors had provided better care, a report published today says.

About 600 babies die before their first birthday each year in England and Wales, most of which are not deaths where the reasons are unexplained. But in about 120 cases a year, a cause is identified.

A study of these "explained" deaths in five regions of England and Wales showed that half of the babies received "sub-optimal" care, usually because the parents or the doctors and nurses caring for them did not recognise how ill they were

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

and did not act soon enough. More than a third of the deaths were caused by infections.

Professor Robert Shaw, president-elect of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said the study conducted as part of the annual Confidential Inquiry into Stillbirths and Neonatal Deaths, showed that the commonest reason for the deaths was a failure to recognise that the baby was deteriorating.

"Many had been seen by the GP within the previous 24 hours. They may have had a sniffly nose and were sent home and

then later developed breathing problems but the parents didn't take them back. There was evidence of sub-optimal care at different stages. They were potentially avoidable deaths."

Professor Peter Fleming, head of child health at Bristol University, said that in some cases care had suffered because parents had been perceived as "crying wolf".

"Parents whose babies had died were calling their doctors far more often in the month before. If you are constantly calling the doctor or health visitor for minor problems when a major problem occurs they may not respond with a sense of urgency." The report says

that GPs need better training in recognition of severe illness in children and that research should be conducted into the wider use of the Baby Check system - a scoring guide that assists parents to tell how seriously ill their baby is.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, which collaborated on the study, said Baby Check had the potential for identifying how ill a baby was and for improving communication between parents and doctors.

A separate study of planned home births found 22 deaths among 12,000 deliveries, most associated with delays in getting expert help or transferring

the mother and baby to hospital when things went wrong.

The report calls for improvements in back-up procedures, and the immediate availability of equipment in the home and training in its use.

Niki Jakeman, midwife adviser to the inquiry, said: "In many cases the women couldn't get in touch with the midwife when they went into labour, the hospital had to send another who couldn't find the house and arrived late. If there are complications, midwives need to know who to contact and what to do and the ambulance service needs to know where to go. Time is of the essence when things go wrong."



Street-smart models show off Granada's range of 'Coronation' clothing, with 'discreet' logo Martin Rickett

Soap to endorse clothes range

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

IN THE age of celebrity endorsements and mass product placement it was bound to happen - the first clothing range based on a television soap opera.

Die-hard fans of *Coronation Street* can already wear their Jack and Vera T-shirts with pride, but now they can expand their wardrobe. Granada Television has signed a licensing deal with a clothing company to design a range of clothes.

The range of sweatshirts, fleeces and baseball caps will feature no more than a discreet *Street* logo and will come in the sober colours of black, green and navy. There is not a hint of Bet Lynch leopardskin.

Steve Robinson, managing director of J Nuttall and Company, which is to start marketing the clothes next September, said Granada wanted to move away from the Jack and Vera image. "This is a serious project," he said. Granada wanted a range of clothes "that people would want to wear to the pub".

The clothes will be sold at duty-free shops and airports and the sweatshirts will retail for £30. But that is not the end of the plans to market the show. Steve Crowther, of Granada Media Products, said the company was also in talks with other licensees.

"It is all about rebranding the show and we think they will be very popular ... even people who are not fans of the programme will want to wear these clothes," he said. He added that there were plans to produce socks, ties, mugs and plates and even miniature replicas of the houses in the *Street*.

There are similar plans for *Emmerdale*. It is just a matter of time before we see *Emmerdale*-branded Wellington boots.

The actor William Roache, who plays Ken Barlow in *Coronation Street*, yesterday lost his case against the libel solicitors Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, in which he claimed he had refused to accept an out-of-court settlement of £50,000 from the *Sun* newspaper because of their inadequate advice. The refusal left Mr Roache with legal bills of around £120,000. Now he could now face another bill of £20,000.

Wormwood Scrubs lawyer alleges victimisation by prison officers

A SOLICITOR at the centre of allegations of brutality at Wormwood Scrubs prison claimed yesterday she was being victimised by staff at every jail she visited.

Jane Hickman said she had been accused of drug smuggling, verbally harassed by prison officers and prevented from visiting her clients.

Her firm, Hickman & Rose, is representing 20 prisoners who claim to have been attacked by staff at Wormwood Scrubs, west London. The allegations are at present the subject of a police investigation.

Ms Hickman said: "I am suffering harassment and disruption to my work. The bad feeling against me is because of the

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Wormwood Scrubs investigation and the fact that my name is on the top of the firm's headed paper."

Last Thursday, Ms Hickman was arrested at Wandsworth prison, south London, after officers found a piece of cannabis resin in the pocket of a pair of jeans she was delivering to an inmate.

Ms Hickman said the jeans were in a bag of clothes which she was delivering at the request of the prisoner's family. She said she told the jail two days earlier that she would be bringing the clothes and requested that officers search

the bag when she arrived. To her astonishment, she was accused of smuggling and is at present on police bail in relation to alleged possession of the drugs with intent to supply.

Ms Hickman said there was no suggestion that the staff had planted the drugs and added: "I am not a cannabis devotee myself and the last thing I would do is supply it to a client who is disturbed and highly manipulative. I would be putting my career in his hands."

The prisoner she was visiting is a convicted murderer who is being held in the jail's segregation unit. Ms Hickman was told that she would no longer be allowed into the prison, but

has since been advised that any future discussions with her client will have to take place through a plastic partition.

Meanwhile, her firm claimed yesterday that seven of the prisoners allegedly attacked at Wormwood Scrubs were being victimised by staff after being transferred to other jails.

The solicitor Daniel Machover has written to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, calling for the prisoners to be moved to private jails. He said: "Our clients have told us they do not feel safe in any place where the Prison Officers' Association (POA) is the staff representative body."

He has also asked Mr Straw to order a public inquiry into the

whole Wormwood Scrubs affair, claiming this would reduce the likelihood of further bullying.

"Those that are interfering with a criminal investigation may think twice if they know there is to be a public inquiry," he said.

But Mark Healy, the national chairman of the POA, said all accusations of brutality should be referred to the police.

He said: "One of the unfortunate consequences of working within the prison system is that from time to time allegations are made. We support any allegation being investigated, knowing through our experience that the vast majority turn out to be untrue and malicious."

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Tricks of burglars' trade revealed

BURGLARS OFTEN wait for their previous victims to buy new goods to replace those stolen before breaking in a second or third time, a report disclosed yesterday.

Single parents are most likely to be repeatedly targeted while the elderly are among the least at risk, says the study.

The report follows research showing that just 2 per cent of householders suffer 41 per cent of all break-ins.

For mugging, assault or robbery, 1 per cent of the population has been victimised more than four times, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of all attacks.

The Home Office report, *Repeat Victimisation: Taking Stock*, calls for better targeting of prolific offenders.

It gives details of a study this year in which 186 convicted burglars in West Yorkshire were questioned. They provide intriguing insights into the way criminals operate. More than a quarter admitted repeatedly raiding the same home.

One commented: "The house would be targeted again a few weeks later when the stuff had been replaced and because the first time had been easy."

"It was a chance to get things which you had seen the first time and now had a buyer for," said another. "Once you

By JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

have been into a place it is easier to burgle because you are familiar with the layout, and you can get out much quicker."

Keys were usually hanging around, either on a shelf or the top of furniture near the door in empty houses, so they used the keys to unlock the doors to get out - and to use for the next time they broke in.

A study of armed robbers found similar reasoning - a fifth said they returned to the scene of the crime. "It was so easy I went back 10 days later," said one.

"If you get a good result, you go back a second time."

"[I did] a factory and shop twice. It is easy. It's about 25 minutes before the alarm goes off, and the shop didn't have one. They didn't learn. It was easy. I knew the woman, and she helped me, so I did it twice."

A similar logic appealed to a car criminal, the report said: "X had stolen the stereo from the same car more than once. He would return to the same street, and if he spotted the same car parked on the street he would take the stereo again if it had been replaced."

Research suggests that offenders who commit repeat

crimes against the same target are among the country's most prolific law-breakers. The report's author, Professor Ken Pease, said the first response to a break-in is vital in predicting whether a repeat burglary is likely to take place.

He warned: "Temporary repairs can leave a home or workplace more vulnerable to repeated burglary, with a corn-flake packet in a broken window providing no protection against another entry."

Certain types of people are more likely to have the time, money, and motivation to make quick improvements, he said. "Lone-parent households are particularly likely to suffer crime recurrence, and the elderly are among the least likely," said Professor Pease.

He added that it is important for different police sections, such as crime prevention and proactive units, to work together in helping reduce repeat victimisation.

"The worst outcome for crime prevention would be for the approaches to be seen as somehow in competition. A turf war between those researching [crime] hot-spots, those concerned with high-crime areas and those concentrating on repeat victims would be very stupid," he said.



A victim of repeat burglars begs to be left in peace. Just 2 per cent of households suffer over 40 per cent of all break-ins in Britain. AP

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MP who has been burgled four times at same house

IF ANYONE knows the meaning of repeat burglaries, it is Labour MP Karen Buck, who has been broken into six times.

The member for Regent's Park and Kensington North has been burgled four times at the same house in north Westminster. After the most recent of these, in January last year, the local police told her: "Why don't you consider living somewhere safer?"

Ms Buck said: "My feeling is that people should be free to live wherever they choose, free from the risk of crime. It sometimes seems that the police feel that if you choose to live in a tough area then it is your own fault if you get burgled."

"I am not saying it's the police's fault but people should be

By DIANA BLAMIRE

free to choose to live wherever they like. Of course they should take reasonable measures to protect their home against burglary."

After each break-in, security has been improved and the house now has double locks everywhere to deter thieves.

"All reasonable steps have been taken to protect the property but you don't want to live in Fort Knox," she said.

Ms Buck, who has also been the victim of street robbery, lives with her family in an area of north Westminster with a high level of crime.

Street robbery is a particular problem in the area in which Ms Buck lives and is associat-

ed with drugs in many cases, according to police, who say the culprits are usually young men and quite often teenagers.

"The real issue is that we need more high-profile policing and we need to divert those responsible away from crime," said Ms Buck.

On each occasion the thieves took her television and video after smashing windows or knocking down doors to break into her home.

Ms Buck is certain that the same gang is to blame for at least four of the six crimes.

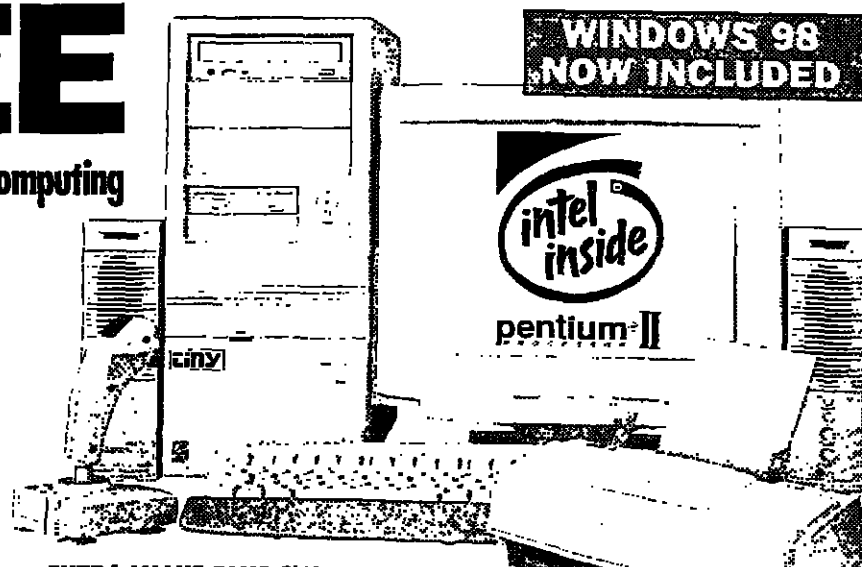
"They used the same method each time, smashing down the door. It would be too much of a coincidence if it wasn't the same lot responsible," she said.



Buck: "You don't want to live in Fort Knox"

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45 die as Nigeria's anarchy worsens



Protesters with a banner calling for a republic of Oduduwa, another word for Yoruba, the main ethnic group in south-western Nigeria

THERE were more deaths in Lagos yesterday as the violence in Nigeria continued to spread. A market in central Lagos was set ablaze, and there were clashes between police and demonstrators in several other parts of the city.

Police fired tear-gas to disperse mobs in Lagos as youths clashed with traders from the north. A television cameraman said he had seen a man clubbed to death by a mob. The death-toll since the death on Tuesday of the jailed opposition leader, Moshood Abiola, was reported to have reached 45.

International pathologists, including a British doctor, Richard Shepherd, arrived in Lagos for an autopsy on Abiola. In Nigeria, there is widespread suspicion about his death. The examination might allay some of these suspicions, though things may already have got too far out of control for any real trust to be re-established. Abiola's family have suggested he may have been poisoned. The post-mortem examinations were due to take place as quickly as possible, with the funeral planned for today.

"Soon after the pathologists arrive they will meet to decide on the format for the autopsy," Abiola's doctor said in Lagos. "We expect this autopsy to take between three and four hours and soon afterwards a statement will be made."

The military junta met to discuss plans regarding a hand-over to civilian power and the release of more political prisoners. The Provisional Ruling

BY PATRICK GOODDEN

Council was also due to discuss the possibility of overturning convictions against six men found guilty earlier this year of plotting a coup against the late military leader, Sani Abacha.

When Abdulsalam Abubakar first took power after Abacha's death, many Western countries seemed optimistic that he would begin to introduce democratic change.

The planned release of Abiola seemed to be the culmination of that process. But Abiola's sudden death, officially from a heart attack, has called the entire process of change into question.

For the moment, there are few signs of such liberalisation. On the contrary, the regime seems ready to clamp down more tightly, not least with the pretext of increasing street violence.

There are fears, too, that the violence could get worse. Already, it is ethnically based, with potential dangers for the fabric of the Nigerian state, with splits between the mainly Christian Yoruba south and the mainly Muslim-dominated Hausa north.

Abiola's death has lifted some of the pressure on the Nigerian authorities. Until Abacha's death, and after General Abubakar took over, there were demands for Nigeria to demonstrate that it was ready to liberalise further. But the anarchy of the riots mean that criticism of the authorities is now less concentrated.

The political opposition has

been largely caught off-balance by Abiola's death, not least because of the chaotic circumstances in Nigeria, which mean that there is no obvious replacement as a figurehead leader.

Bola Ajikunle, the former Nigerian foreign minister, and spokesman for Nadeo (National Democratic Coalition), was surprisingly conciliatory in his reaction to a speech by Gen Abubakar on television on Wednesday night. "I think the tone of the speech was very appropriate."

"It would have been very insensitive to have dealt with political matters," he said in London yesterday. Gen Abubakar made no reference to plans for elections or the release of political prisoners.

"What he had to do was reach out to the anger and the hurt that people felt over this tragedy, as if to say: 'I am suffering with you and understand your anger and frustration,'" Mr Ajikunle said.

Opposition groups have been keen not to stoke the flames at a time when the unrest could easily spiral out of control. Opposition leaders have asked people to react calmly to the news of Abiola's death.

The South African Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, was due to meet Gen Abubakar during a visit planned long before Abiola's death.

The United States issued a warning to avoid "all unnecessary travel".

Leading article, Review, page 3

Cypriots test new missiles in Russia

RUSSIA HAS provided a practical demonstration of the air-defence missile system that it plans to sell to Cyprus, despite international calls for the deal to be cancelled because it could cause a military show-down on the divided island.

Cypriot servicemen yesterday tested the S-300 system by launching missiles at dummy rockets flying over a remote Russian firing range at the north end of the Caspian Sea. A spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry, which trained the Cypriots, announced afterwards that they "shot down several targets with nearly 100 per cent practice firing efficiency".

Russia appears eager to press ahead with the sale, despite both criticism from the West and the certainty of incurring the wrath of Turkey, which has threatened to destroy the missiles if they ever arrive on Cypriot turf, prompting fears of renewed conflict on the island.

But Moscow needs the money—at least £123m. This pos-

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

ture has drawn criticism from Washington, which believes Russia is putting its bank balance above peace. "Crass money issues are being placed ahead of regional stability," said a Washington source, after pointing out that the United States has a law banning sales to Cyprus.

The sale also offers a pleasing bonus for Moscow's foreign policy makers — namely deepening a split in Nato's southern flank at a time when the alliance is continuing to pressure Russia's western flank.

Nato's shadow has been in particular evidence recently: its General Secretary, Javier Solana, was in Ukraine yesterday to mark the first anniversary of a charter with Kiev. And on Wednesday, the US Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, publicly reassured the Baltics that Washington supported their right to Nato membership — remarks calculated to rile

Moscow, which has vowed to oppose their admission.

The issue of the missile system goes beyond air control of the island, which is in the hands of the Turks. US sources say it includes radar coverage of territory beyond Cyprus which, if accessible to Athens, would aggravate tensions over control of the Aegean.

Signs are emerging, however, that the missiles may be most useful as a ploy to lure the Turks back to the negotiating table. Cyprus has put back the delivery date several times, and now it is not expected until at least November.

Talks have been on ice since last year. The Turkish side, which occupies one-third of the island, has said it will only return to the table if the Greek Cypriots recognise their government, the TRNC. Cyprus's next move may become clearer today, when the Cypriot Defence Minister, Ioannis Omirou, meets his Russian counterpart, Marshal Igor Sergeev.

IMF offers lifeline to desperate Kremlin

BATTERED BUT unbowed by draining reserves, tumbling stocks, labour strife and market rumours that he is actually dead, Boris Yeltsin appeared on Russian television yesterday and vowed to stand by his pledge not to devalue the rouble.

His up-beat remarks came as Moscow edged close to a deal with the International Monetary Fund over a \$10-15bn (£6-9bn) loan to underwrite its battle to defend the currency in

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

the face of fleeing investors, rattled by the Asian crisis, falling oil prices, and Russia's domestic economic woes. John Odling-Smee, a senior IMF official, reaches Moscow today for talks on the loan with Anatoly Chubais. The economics maestro was sacked by Boris Yeltsin in March only to be recalled to the Kremlin to help dig the country out of its worsening fiscal crisis.

Yesterday Mr Chubais said the talks, which also involve the World Bank, could be concluded soon. Whether this will enable Russia to protect the rouble — one of the few achievements of Russia's incomplete transition to a market economy — remains to be seen.

Mr Yeltsin, who looked relatively well, told viewers he had a "plan of action", although he did not spell it out. He may have been referring to a package of anti-crisis measures demanded by the IMF which are at present before parliament.

The crisis has sent Moscow into a political frenzy, driven by Mr Yeltsin's opponents, which has led to a renewal of speculation about his health, devaluation, runaway inflation and — albeit improbably — the possibility of a coup.

The mood is unlikely to be dampened by the introduction of an anti-crisis package or



Boris Yeltsin, needs \$15bn

fresh IMF funds. In fact, there are doubts whether the latter will suffice. This week, an official from the credit rating agency Moody's Investors Services said Russia might need up to \$20bn if it is to avoid defaulting on its short-term debt.

Yesterday, the Central Bank announced its foreign currency and gold reserves had fallen by almost \$1bn to \$15.1bn, drained by debt payments. Although they rallied slightly yesterday, stocks have been sliding in recent weeks, and have fallen by more than half since the beginning of the year.

To this mayhem should be added the groundswell of indignation from millions of workers over wage arrears. Miners have picketed the Trans-Siberian railway for a week and this week thousands of defence workers also mounted protests.

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World Cup: The biggest celebration since the Allied liberation grips Paris while Croatia accepts defeat with dignity

France unites in football victory

THE BRAVEST man in Paris on Wednesday night was the man who cycled the wrong way around the Arc de Triomphe, carrying a Brazilian flag. Moving the other way (quite slowly, admittedly) were hundreds of screaming cars draped in French flags; a man wheeling his red-white-and-blue painted friend in a wheelbarrow; a large articulated truck turned into a mobile disco of cavorting, banner-waving youngsters; and thousands of shrieking, dancing pedestrians and roller-skaters.

The lone Brazilian passed through unscathed: it was that kind of night.

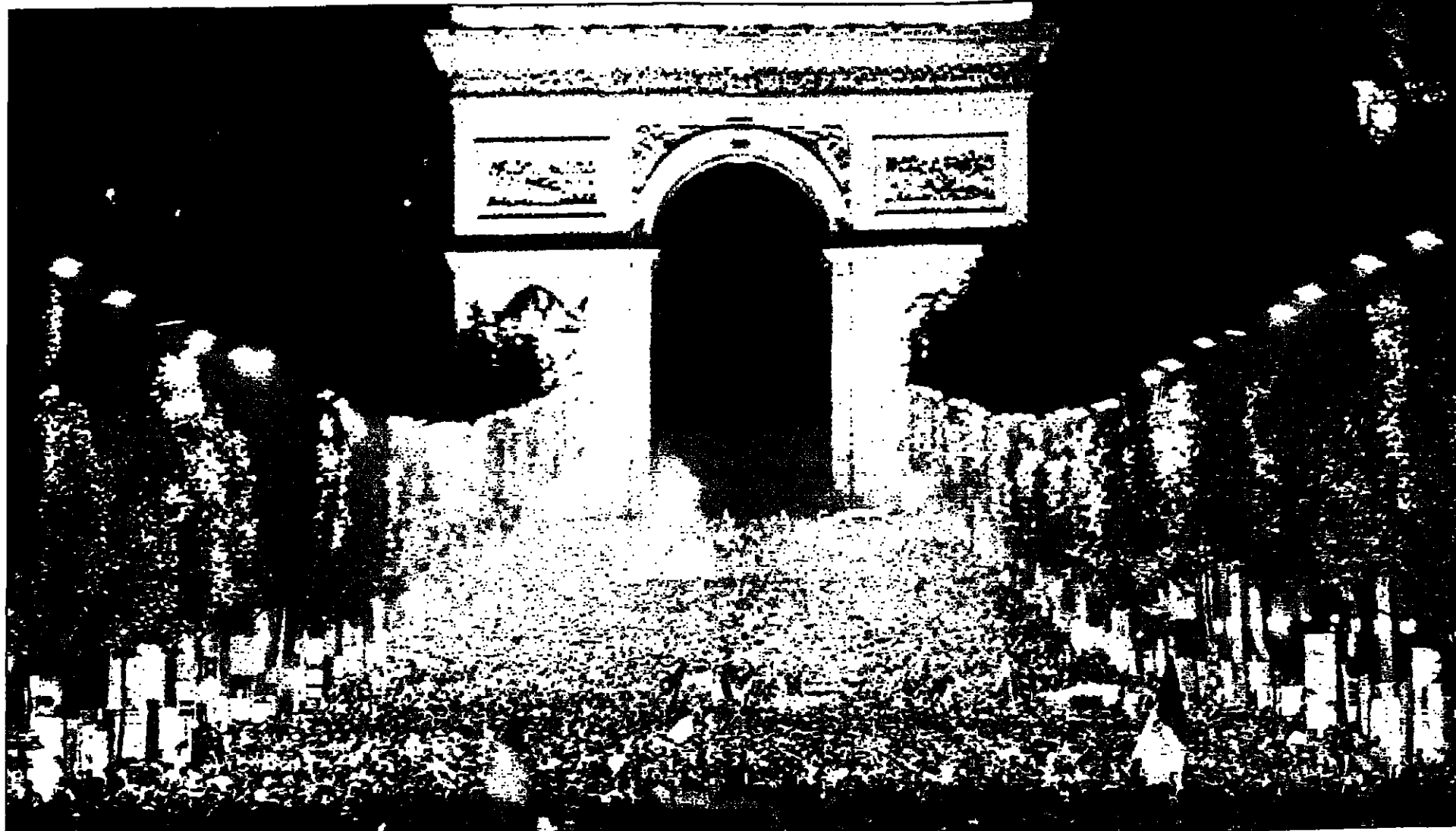
The world's most celebrated triumphal arch was built with other kinds of blood; victories in mind but 2-1 against Croatia would do nicely. France was through to the World Cup final for the first time and the whole

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

country had gone crazy. Older revellers said they had not seen such a display of abandoned emotion in Paris since the Liberation in 1944. At one point, soon after midnight, the whole of the Champs Elysées was blocked by people: a two-mile street party, 300,000 strong.

A young black man organised a Mexican Wave, perhaps the first ever attempted outside a stadium. He persuaded thousands of people to sit down on the world's most beautiful avenue and then spring into the air at once shouting "Ole". It was quite a sight.

It was fitting he should be a young, black man. For a country preoccupied by its racial problems there was something



Hundreds of thousands of football fans pack the Champs Elysées in Paris in celebration of France's 2-1 semi-final victory over Croatia

Jerome Delay/AP

self-consciously and movingly multi-racial about the night's events. Lilian Thuram, born in Dieppe of African parents, scored both goals for an ethnic rainbow of a French team. The crowd chanted:

"Thuram - President. Thuram - President."

Thousands of youths of Arab extraction from the troubled inner suburbs of the capital poured on to the Champs Elysées as the night went on,

as they always do when there is a big party to celebrate, or to spoil. This time they were in strictly celebratory mood.

Karim said: "We are here for the party, not to kick up shit. The French team is our team."

[Thierry] Henry, [David] Trézéguet, are our cousins, from the suburbs like us."

Francis Dando, 25, born in Benin, was wearing a French football jersey and walking down the Champs Elysées kissing strangers. He said: "Where are you tonight Jean-Marie Le Pen? I was not born in France but I love France. And, you see, it was a black French man who won the game for a white, brown, black French team. What a wonderful night."

Jean-Marie Bernard, 59, who was five when Allied troops entered Paris in August 1944, said: "This is about more than football. All of France is here. I have seen nothing like it before. Not since the Liberation."

He was right: it was about more than football. This was a shout of joy to end four or five years of quite uncharacteristic, French pessimism. (The economy is looking up, after all.) This was a joyous national celebration in a country in which the banner of nationalism has

been besmirched by Mr Le Pen and his National Front.

Because it was about something harmless, and all-important, like football, and because it was evidently multi-racial, all political complexes could be gratefully set aside.

Until this World Cup, it was common for the suburban youth of Arab extraction to support any team but France. The presence of players such as Zinedine Zidane and Thierry Henry has changed all that.

Until this World Cup, France was not noted as a fervent football-supporting nation. Michel Platini, former French captain and manager, now President of the World Cup organising committee, famously described France as a "nation of spectators, not supporters".

Three things have changed that: the fact the team has been winning; the fact the tournament is in France; and the need for a national bonfire after five years of "morosité ambiante" ("encompassing gloom").

Not everything has changed. The favour of the crowds in the centre of Paris, most of whom had not been to the match, contrasted strangely with the quietness of the home crowd in the Stade de France five miles away an hour or two earlier.

Aimé Jacquet, the French coach, said he compared with "some bitterness" the noise made by the revellers and the passivity of the mostly French crowd at the stadium. He offered an explanation: most of the 80,000 tickets had gone to football officials and sponsors and friends of sponsors.

Marcel Desailly, the Ghanaian-born but French-raised central defender, pointed to this paradox. Most of the French people in the crowd did not even seem to be wearing a French football shirt or scarf, he said. There is another outstanding question: what on earth will the Parisian crowds do for an encore if France wins the World Cup on Sunday night? Monitor, Review, page 3

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Silence, then a sense of a job well done

BY MARCUS TANNER

LAST SATURDAY there was euphoria and shooting in the air. But on Wednesday night in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, there was just silence. Croats returned to earth and a more normal existence after Croatia's 2-1 defeat at the hands of France with resignation: a conviction that a good job had been done, and, in some cases, relief that the almost unbearable tension of their stunning win over Germany had been deflated.

One Croat housewife said: "It was like a horror movie living here while it was all going on. Pierre Simulovic said: 'We were pretty much satisfied with what we achieved against Germany. Anything on top of what we had achieved... would just have been a bonus'."

Croats revelled in the attention their country received after reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup and welcomed the coverage which raised its profile abroad, finally convinc-

ing the world Croatia was separate from Yugoslavia - seven years after independence.

To Mr Simulovic, it was the German win that was "the ultimate confirmation of nationhood". He added: "There were bigger crowds in Zagreb after that than on the day of independence [from Yugoslavia]."

"That German win was such an emotional peak. I just felt empty after that," said Ines Sabalic who, like the whole of the Croatian capital, watched the match with France in her Zagreb flat.

"The whole match between Croatia and Germany was so strange anyway. It was like a clash between the two Nazi states. We have strong bonds with them - we are the flea on the hide of the big German elephant."

"It was nice for once that the emphasis wasn't on bad old

Croats. So I really wasn't disappointed by the end result. I felt worse about [Goran] Ivankovic losing at Wimbledon."

On the other side of the Yugoslav divide, in Belgrade, Serbs were as transfixed by the game as their Croat enemies. Surprisingly, given their enmity since the Serb-Croat war of 1991, many Serbs rooted more for the Croats than for the French team.

"When [the Croats] beat the Germans we were delighted," said Blacko Dikic, in Belgrade. "People fired guns in celebration. Some people even said: 'We did it.' He added: 'We know all these guys. In a sense, they were our boys, too. [Robert] Prosinecki used to play in Red Star [Belgrade]."

"When the France-Croatia match was on, the streets of Belgrade were empty. I am a Serb from Croatia, so I should hate Croats more than anyone, but I still wanted them to win."

Football falls flat at auction

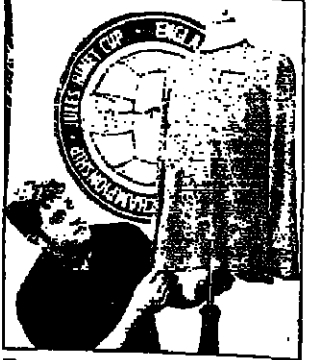
BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

AN AUCTION house paid the price for an overdose of World Cup football yesterday when it failed to sell a succession of football souvenirs.

The red jersey worn by Roger Hunt during England's 1966 World Cup final triumph, the centrepiece of Sotheby's first-ever auction devoted entirely to football, failed to reach its reserve price. The highest bid for the long-sleeved top, which was expected to sell for between £30,000 and £50,000, was only £19,000.

Mr Hunt's shirt belongs to Wolfgang Weber, the German footballer who swapped tops with him at Wembley following England's epic 4-2 victory after extra time. Mr Weber's own shirt fared little better at auction. It was predicted that his jersey would fetch between £10,000 and £15,000 but the top bid was only £3,000.

A spokeswoman for Sotheby's, London, said yesterday:



Roger Hunt's shirt is prepared for auction

"We are incredibly disappointed that the Roger Hunt top didn't sell but we are reasonably confident that we will find a buyer after the sale. It is still an important piece of football history. There has never been a sale of football memorabilia in London before. To a certain extent we were testing the

market to see how much people are prepared to pay."

The packed auction room, decked out with jerseys, flags, and programmes, was a football anorak's paradise and many of the sale's 647 lots did manage to find an owner. However, many of the auction's most illustrious items failed to arouse the anticipated level of interest.

The football which was used in Pele's farewell game for Brazil against Yugoslavia in 1971 received a highest bid of £950 when it was expected to fetch at least £3,000. The boots worn by Kevin Keegan in his last game as a professional also failed to sell, as did a tracksuit owned by the Liverpool manager Bob Paisley.

Among the auction's successes was the sale of a cap won by George Best playing for Northern Ireland which fetched £1,450, and a referee's whistle used in the 1932 FA Cup final which was sold for £1,150.

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Ex-Argentine leader on baby-snatching charges



Hebe de Bonafini (centre), the head of Argentina's Mothers of Plaza de Mayo group, whose children disappeared during the dirty war AP

THE FORMER Argentine junta leader General Jorge Videla got away with murder. Sixty-six murders, 300 kidnappings and 100 cases of torture, to be exact. But he may not get away with baby-snatching.

General Videla, 71, who ousted President Isabel Peron in a 1976 military coup, faces the rest of his life in jail for one of the cruelest aspects of the 1976-83 "Dirty War" - abducting babies from detained liberal women and giving, or selling, them to childless military, or police officers for "a Christian upbringing".

The mothers, mostly students, professionals or housewives whose only "crime" was to be opposed to military rule, were often induced to give birth, blindfolded and with hands bound, in special maternity wards set up in military bases, according to nurses employed by the military at the time. The mothers were then "disappeared", some drugged, stripped naked and thrown alive from aircraft into the Atlantic Ocean, according to a repentant military officer who took part. Most of the hundreds of children, now in their late teens or early twenties, are still with their adoptive parents, many unaware of their true roots.

Some have been returned to grandmothers or aunts after court cases. Others have never been traced, despite efforts by a group of grandmothers known

as "The Grannies of the Plaza de Mayo".

Gen Videla, who headed the junta until shortly before the 1982 Falklands war, was sentenced to life in jail along with other senior officers in 1985 for mass murder, kidnapping and torture during his regime, when an estimated 30,000 Argentines were killed or "disappeared". But all the officers were pardoned and freed in 1990 by President Carlos Menem in "an act of conciliation".

Now, Gen Videla, who could be seen at Sunday mass every week in the Belgrano district of Buenos Aires, is back in jail. A federal judge, Roberto Marquiech, ruled last week that "crimes against children" were not covered by Mr Menem's amnesty and the general must face trial on at least five specific cases of child abduction and possibly several dozen more. Other former officers, including Leopoldo Galtieri, the man who launched the invasion of the Falklands in 1982, could face similar charges, with potential jail terms of up to 25 years.

"God Exists!" screamed the liberal daily *Pagina 12* in a bold front-page headline, over a doctored photograph of Gen Videla in a striped prison uniform, after his arrest. "This represents progress over impunity and gives us some hope that real jus-



Gen Jorge Videla: Back in jail AP/La Nacion

tice will one day be done over this genocide," said Alfredo Bravo, an opposition legislator.

"Although Nazism was the sum of all possible horror, Argentina's military rose to new heights by keeping the newborn children of the women whom it tortured and 'disappeared', a columnist, Gina Montaner, wrote in the Miami-based Spanish-language daily *El Nuevo Herald*. "The guards and torturers at Nazi extermination camps did not take Jewish children home to turn them into Aryans... to Argentine officers the problem was ideological in nature and therefore modifiable."

An Argentine police doctor, Jorge Berge, earned the nickname of "the Argentine Mengele" (after the Nazi torturer

Josef Mengele) for torturing and experimenting on female detainees during the "Dirty War", but, after the 1990 amnesty, worked openly as Medical Commissioner for the Buenos Aires police, until public pressure forced his suspension in March.

Since Gen Videla's arrest, Judge Marquiech has received death threats, including one not-so-subtle warning, unsigned but written on official Argentine army paper, leading many Argentines to fear that the judge may bow to military pressure and drop the case.

With an eye on public opinion in the run-up to an expected third run at the presidency next year, Mr Menem has indicated he will not consider a pardon this time round.

Two of the individual cases facing Gen Videla involve Pablo and Carolina Bianco, born of "disappeared" women and adopted by Dr Norberto Bianco, who ran the "maternity ward" at the Campo de Mayo military hospital during military rule. Dr Bianco is now in jail but the two children, who fled to Paraguay, have refused to take DNA tests which might identify their real parents.

The "Grannies of the Plaza de Mayo" - a separate group from the headscarfed mothers who have marched round the same square for more than 20 years - are mothers of disappeared women who accept their children are dead but be-

lieve their grandchildren are alive. By publishing snapshots of their missing grandchildren, they have so far traced 60, most of whom have been returned to blood relatives after court cases. They are still looking for more than 200 specific victims and believe there could be a further 300 young men or women who will never know their true origins because their families did not know of the pregnancy at the time.

One of the grandmothers, Elsa Pavon, 61, traced her granddaughter, Paula, in 1983, five years after Mrs Pavon's daughter and son-in-law disappeared. After an anonymous tip that a child of her age - then seven - and description was living in the home of a former policeman, Mrs Pavon spent weeks on a park bench in Buenos Aires watching the house.

Eventually, she plucked up the nerve to knock on the door, posing as a saleswoman. "I saw her there. It was like looking at Monica, my daughter, as a child. It was uncanny," Mrs Pavon said. After genetic tests, she won custody of her granddaughter, now a 22-year-old student of cinema, in 1988.

"Finally, justice was recognising her existence," she said. "But it was also recognising the existence of my own daughter, Monica, and her husband, Claudio. They had tried to wipe them from history, but they couldn't."

Aphrodisiac fad destroys stocks of sea horses

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

ASIA'S ONCE plentiful population of sea horses is in steep decline, thanks to a combination of freak weather conditions and man's hunger for aphrodisiacs.

Conservationists meeting in the Philippine province of Cebu this week have been told that the situation for sea horses is now acute.

"We still have time but there is grave cause for concern," said Heather Hall, of the Zoological Society in London.

The El Niño weather effect has had a damaging impact on marine life throughout Asia. In some Asian waters, which played host to large numbers of sea horses, the phenomenon of so-called "red tides" composed of vast quantities of dead algae, which are directly related to changes in the weather, have choked the marine life.

The sea horses are also facing another threat in the form of a heavy demand for their bodies, which are pulped for use in Chinese medicine. The pulp remains are then boiled to make an evil-smelling broth.

Traditional Chinese doctors use the sea-horse broth to treat problems with the kidney,



The sea horse is in steep decline in Asian waters

which they consider one of the five vital organs in the body. The kidney is considered to be a cooling or water element, which helps revive or soothe other parts of the body that have become inflamed.

But the kidney is also considered the source of a successful sex life. Many followers of Chinese medicine, therefore, believe that sea horse forms a vital ingredient in aphrodisiacs.

As the popularity of traditional, or alternative, medicine increases, the sea horse is under greater pressure than ever.

War crime court may be killed off by UN arguments

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

WITH JUST a week of negotiating time to go, representatives of more than 150 countries yesterday faced the growing prospect that, despite years of preparation, their efforts to create a permanent International Criminal Court will end in failure.

"Time is running short," the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, warned yesterday in a letter to the conference in Rome attempting to finalise agreement on the court. And one human rights group specialist forecast a "nailbiting" climax. "It depends on who keeps their nerve," she said.

But supporters of a powerful and independent court have increasingly been forced to accept that such is the resistance of a disparate bloc of countries ranging from the US to France, China, and a clutch of Arab states, that a watered down and circumscribed ICC is the best to be hoped for.

In fact, what is being played out in the building of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in central Rome is a hideously complex game of diplomatic chess, in which 1,000 or more officials and legal experts from almost every coun-

try on earth have been in a virtually non-stop meeting for more than three weeks.

The prize is tantalising: a court under the aegis of the UN, a "permanent Nuremberg" with its own prosecutor and staff, which would try genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes such as those before the present special tribunals dealing with the civil wars in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda.

But the chances of a comprehensive deal being struck before the deadline of 17 July look slim at best, despite marathon negotiating sessions which continue until 10pm, night after night, often with hours of drafting and redrafting work after that.

No less than four basic "packages" are at present circulating, under constant amendment and constantly shifting support.

But the basic faultlines remain: between 50-odd "like-minded" countries including Britain, which want a strong court, the US and France which want one subordinate to the Security Council and the veto powers of the Council's five

permanent members, and a bloc of states including Mexico, India and Pakistan and various Arab countries which would rather have no court at all.

Alone among the P-5, Britain favours a strong court; but its potential as broker of a deal is undermined by divisions between the Foreign Office, broadly in favour of a strong court, and the Home Office and Ministry of Defence which detest the notion of an independent prosecutor.

"They are haunted by Northern Ireland," Harriet Ware-Austin, of Amnesty, said yesterday. "They don't want something like Bloody Sunday to end up before an international court."

Other unresolved issues include "consent," i.e. whether countries where an alleged crime is committed or whose nationals are the accused, must first give permission for a case to be brought.

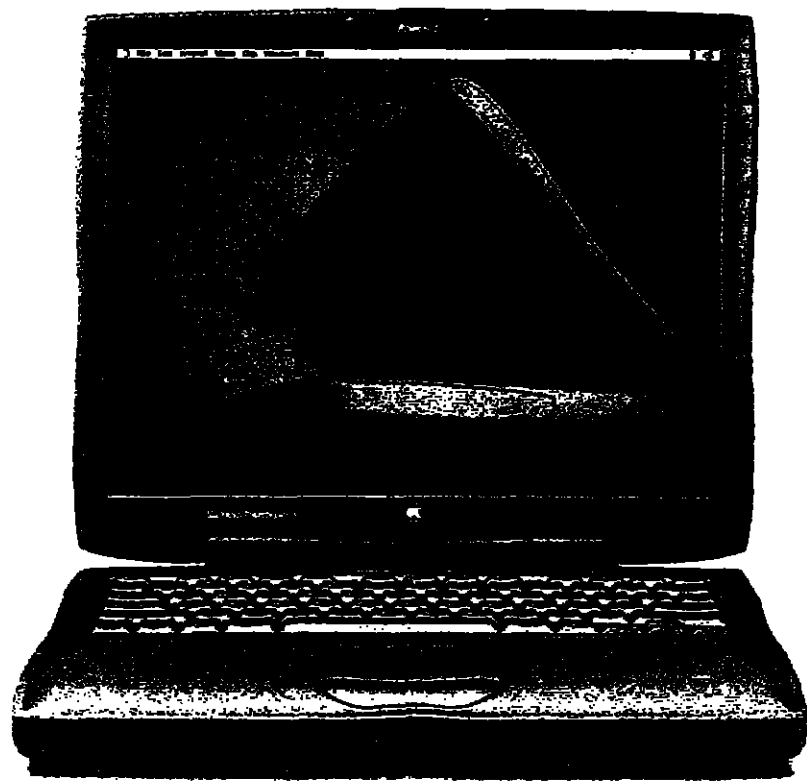
In the end, however, all the jockeying could be academic. "Whatever is agreed, the US won't sign it for years," one expert predicted last night. Many human rights groups argue that a weak court would be a worse outcome than no court at all.



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Death puts boot camps in jeopardy

CALIFORNIA HAS put a question mark over the future of boot camps - where young offenders are subjected to tough shock treatment - after the death of a teenager.

Nicholas Contreras, 16, died at the Boys Ranch camp in Oracle, Arizona, of a severe lung infection. An investigation found that he had been forced to work and take exercise despite his ill health, and this had exacerbated an existing condition.

His body was also found to be covered with cuts and bruises, a testimony to the brutality of the regime. A report says: "Nicholas' death was caused by prolonged and serious medical neglect and openly conducted abusive treatment. He suffered physical and psychological abuse and his personal rights were continually violated."

Staff mistook his breathing difficulties, diarrhoea and vomiting for an attempt to evade the Ranch's tough physical regime. As a punishment, he was forced to do press-ups over a bucket containing clothing stained with excrement.

By Andrew Marshall
in Washington

After a lengthy investigation, California authorities announced yesterday that they would no longer send delinquents to the Boys Ranch. Though it does operate similar camps, California's own state rules make it hard to apply such draconian regimes to children, so it ships youngsters out to Arizona, Nevada and other states. In California, it is illegal to apply physical force or isolate children in lock-up cells.

Congressman George Miller, of California, told the Sacramento Bee newspaper: "I want to know why it is appropriate to subject a Californian child - even a troubled child - to punishment in Arizona and Nevada when that very same treatment is illegal in California." In 1986, Mr Miller led an investigation into a Nevada facility that uses exercise to reform juvenile delinquents, and he said that many of the issues had apparently been left unresolved.

The report raises questions about staff at the Boys Ranch.

The organisation said that the facility at Oracle had now been closed, and that it was an isolated incident. But the death, and similar incidents elsewhere, have raised concerns that the programmes are operating out of control.

Even reports that have been favourable towards the boot camp idea have mentioned problems in finding and keeping the right staff, and keeping them well-trained and within the rules. At least 14 teenagers have died in private reform facilities since 1980.

Corrective camps, or shock incarceration programmes, were adopted in the early Eighties by American states desperate to handle the escalating tide of youth crime. Michael Howard adopted the idea as Home Secretary in 1995, despite evidence that America was dropping the idea.

Youngsters are made to march and exercise outdoors, even in bad weather, and are subjected to military discipline. In the American camps, they are given 20 seconds to use the toilet, and subject to other humiliating ordeals.



A tongue-lashing for a trainee at a state-run boot camp in North Carolina

Diedra Laird/AP

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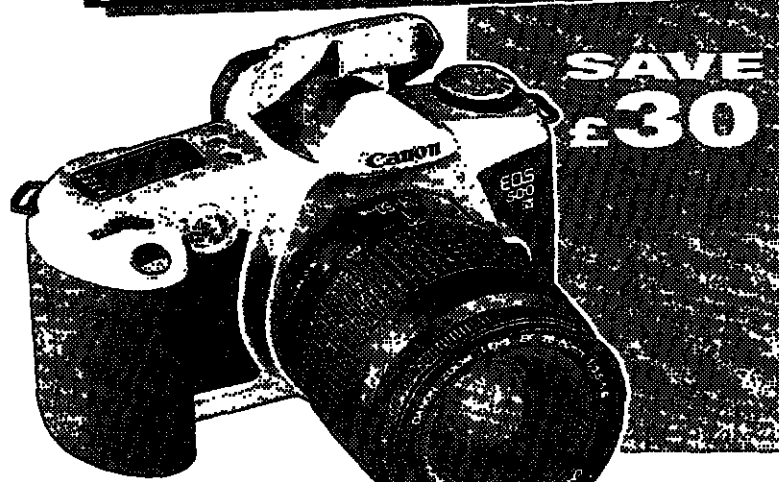
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Earthquake stirs fears for Turkish nuclear reactor

TURKEY'S RECENT earthquake, which killed more than 140 people in the south-east, has inflamed controversy over plans to build the country's first nuclear power station.

Akkuyu, the proposed site for the new reactor on the Mediterranean coast, is about 180km from Adana, the epicentre of the quake.

Greenpeace opposed the construction of the plant from the start five years ago, saying it would be at risk from tremors. It claims the latest disaster has confirmed their worst fears, and is calling on Turkey to suspend the project immediately.

The organisation says the risk posed by earthquakes in the region has not been investigated. It claims between 1871 and 1975 there were more than 50 quakes within a 200km radius of Akkuyu, and a quake with a magnitude of more than eight on the Richter scale is possible in the region. The last quake had a magnitude of six.

By JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

The government insists Greenpeace is being alarmist. "The design is such that the reactor could take a head-on impact from a 747 jet," said Professor Mustafa Erik, head of earthquake engineering at Istanbul University.

"It can be shut down safely even if an earthquake with a magnitude of six occurs directly beneath the reactor," he insisted.

"With earthquakes, location is as important as magnitude. The risk of bigger quakes than that comes only from faults some distance from Akkuyu."

The problem is no one can agree on where these "faults" lie. Professor Erik says the active Ercis fault line is 140km from Akkuyu; Greenpeace thinks it is only 25km away.

The earthquake row is one of several problems the planned reactor has encountered. It has also met strong

local opposition. Local environmentalists recently lost a court battle to stop the project which they said threatened the environment.

The council in the nearby town of Silifke says local people are scared the reactor will endanger their health. The council claims the reactor will wreck attempts to develop tourism.

Ankara plans to build 10 reactors by the year 2020, claiming the fast-growing Turkish economy needs them to supply its energy needs. At the moment, Turkey suffers badly from power cuts in big cities. Greenpeace insists at least 30 per cent of Turkey's energy is lost through inefficient distribution, and that the government has yet to look at alternative energy sources.

Three consortiums are bidding to build the reactor: one headed by the Canadian firm AECL, one by the US firm Westinghouse and one by Siemens in Germany. The AECL group includes the

British company Kvaerner-John Brown.

Turkish green groups suspect Western companies are off-loading on to Turkey technology which they don't want. Ankara is "putting the profits of multinationals ahead of the Turkish people", Melika Keskin of Istanbul Greenpeace said.

Professor Erik said the new reactor is the least of Turkey's worries: "There's much more danger from the old Soviet reactor near our border with Armenia. We ought to concentrate more on the number of cigarettes we smoke."

■ Lisbon (Reuters) — A strong earthquake hit the Portuguese mid-Atlantic Azores islands, killing 10 people and injuring around 50.

The Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres departed for the hardest hit island Faial to inspect damage as the central government sent in a team of doctors and nurses to help find people buried under the rubble of their homes.



The arrival of McDonald's is just part of a modern, Westernised boom in Budapest

AP

Feeling lost on the road to a glittering capitalist future

EUROPEAN TIMES
BUDAPEST

FOR NORA Milotay, a vivacious 32-year-old, life in the new Budapest, on the frontier of capitalism's wild east, has brought mixed blessings.

Under the Hungarian capital's visionary mayor, Gabor Demszky, the city has been transformed from a drab, dilapidated Communist capital to a buzzing metropolis. It can sit proudly, now, alongside London, Rome or even Paris. Hungary has received billions of dollars' worth of foreign investment since the collapse of Communism in 1989 and about half of that has made its way to Budapest: a quarter of the total spent on the whole region has been poured into a single city.

Much of it has been well-spent. In downtown Pest, shiny glass and steel offices soar skywards — concrete metaphors for the city's reach into the sunny capitalist future. Nor has Budapest's beautiful architectural heritage been neglected: magnificent Art Nouveau and Habsburg buildings have been carefully renovated, once-grimy alleys are now atmospherically lit pedestrian precincts.

The city boasts everything many deem essential to modern urban life: a galaxy of gourmet restaurants; multiplex cinemas; mobile telephone networks and Internet connections; a buzzing night-life and designer clothes shops. But for women such as

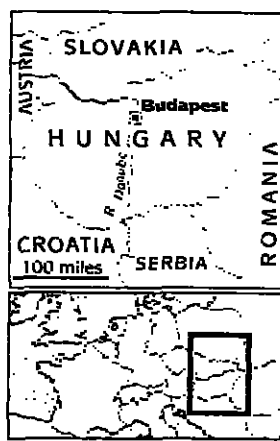
Nora Milotay who admit that their lives have been transformed by opening up to the West, something more valuable than shiny consumer goods has been lost along the way. "Communism was an inhuman system, but there was a certain common humanity in it," she said.

"Because we were all oppressed, people had much more time for each other. Now all that seems to matter is money and careers. The new set of values has destroyed the old ones... And women especially are told that we must be independent, we must be successful, we must be beautiful or we are worthless."

"I don't think we are ready for this and I don't want it. I want to keep the good side of Central European culture, of an intellectual life that is part of our existence. We don't have literature that just makes money, but because we cannot live without literature," she said proudly.

The Hungarians, a nation whose inventive citizens brought the world everything from atomic bombs and the ball-point pen to Rubik's cube, have always proved adaptive.

The outgoing Communist leaders saw the writing on the wall a long time before the apparitions of the Kremlin,



liberalising the economy and allowing limited private enterprise, often planning their own lucrative capitalist futures on the way.

It was their farsightedness which eventually opened up a whole new world of possibilities for Nora Milotay. A graduate of Central European University (CEU), Budapest, and now on a PhD scholarship at Cambridge, Ms Milotay readily admits that her life has also improved in many ways since the collapse of Communism.

Funded by the billionaire financier and philanthropist George Soros, himself a Hungarian, the CEU is a marble and chrome extravaganza in the city's downtown fifth district, where students are

taught by Western lecturers and have state-of-the-art computer facilities.

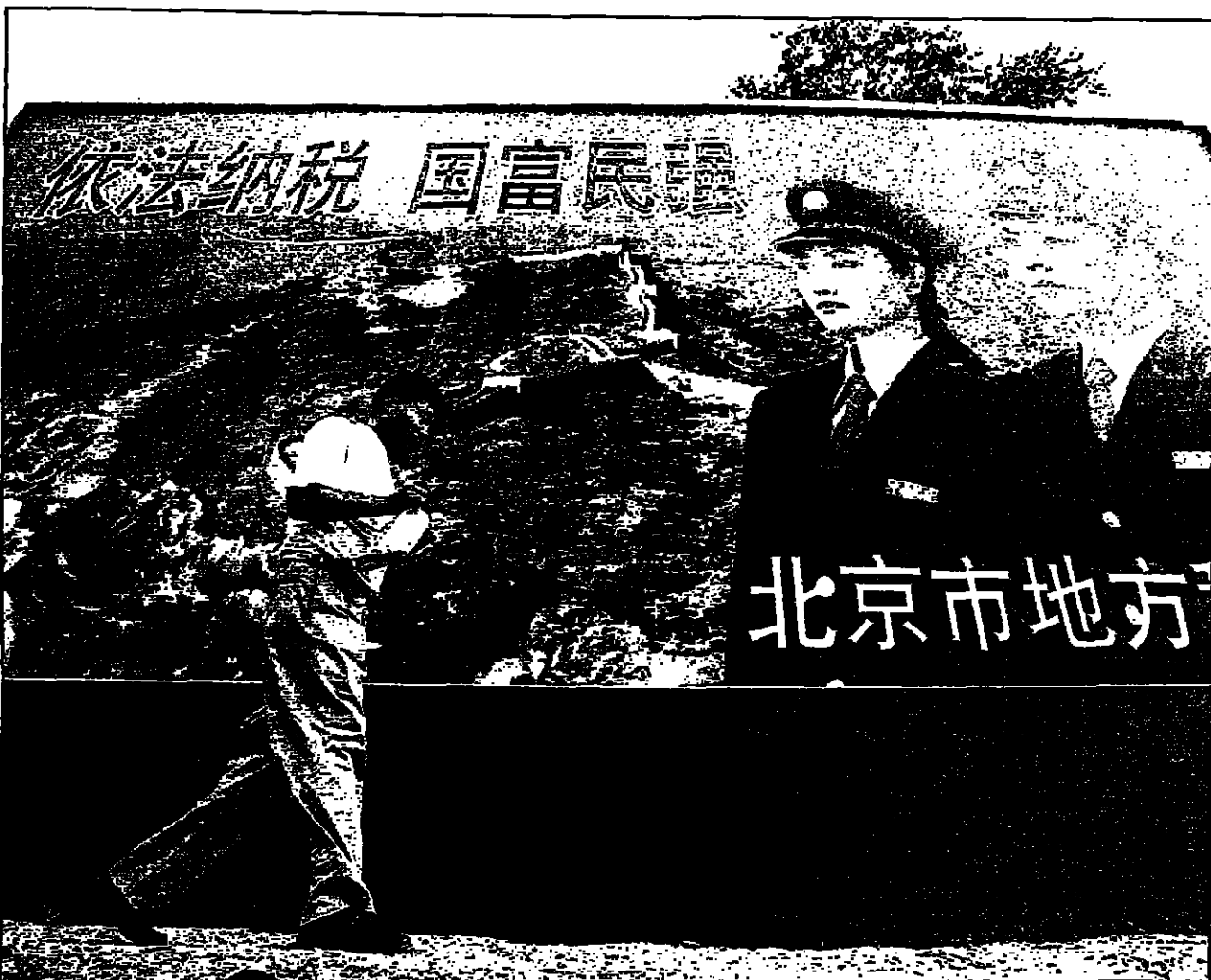
CEU's students are drawn from all over the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, usually on full scholarships that open up for them a world of academia and intellectual ideas. These are the region's leaders in waiting, who Mr Soros hopes will return home with Western ideas of a civil society.

Now Ms Milotay leads the life of an international scholar. "Of course there is a positive side as well to the changes. We have many more opportunities than before... If you are ready to fight for yourself you can do anything. I used to have an inferiority complex about being a Hungarian when I went to the West, but that has all gone now. I can participate as well as anyone else in Western society."

But what she and the other members of Hungarian intelligentsia want now is for Western society to take a leaf out of Hungary's values, and not merely force its ideas and values onto what is still a society in transition.

"We need the Westerners here, their help and their money to create jobs and boost the economy. But a good missionary wants to preach his values, but still respects and keeps the traditions of the place where he is."

ADAM LEBOR



A Chinese man walks past a billboard which urges residents to pay their taxes. Peking is trying to reform its tax system in order to crack down on those evading taxes

Greg Baker/AP

IN BRIEF

Bid to free hostage Britons fails

SECURITY forces in Chechnya have failed in an attempt to free two Britons and two Hungarians being held hostage in the separatist Russian region. Chechen officials say they believe British aid workers Camilla Carr and Jon James and Hungarian aid workers Istvan Olah and Gabor Dunajsky are still alive.

Nepal accused of atrocities

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has accused Nepal of atrocities against suspected members of an extreme communist insurgent group, the Maoist Communist Party of Nepal (CPN), which opposes the kingdom's constitutional monarch.

La Nina brings more cold snaps

EL NINO has waned, but its cold sibling La Nina has appeared sooner than expected and looks set to further disrupt global climate patterns, an expert at the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said yesterday.

Fishing boat collides with whale

A FISHING boat collided yesterday with a whale in Tokyo Bay, hurting one person seriously and causing minor head injuries to six others, the coast guard said.

Nuns seized in Rwanda

HUTU rebels kidnapped a Canadian and two Rwandan nuns in an attack in north-western Rwanda that also left a local official dead. The attack was at Bunge, 60 miles north of the capital, Kigali.

Turkey's flavour of the month

TURKISH demand for turkey meat has boomed since intensive farming of the bird was introduced five months ago, producers said.

Gibraltar woos Spanish with deal on airport

By ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

GIBRALTAR IS urging Spain to co-operate over future joint use of the airport on the Rock. Speaking in Madrid, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, said both Spain and Gibraltar would benefit from freer air communications between them.

At present, Spain allows only British Airways flights in and out of London and some flights from Morocco to land in Gibraltar. This means links between Madrid and the Rock must take place by rail, road or via a long detour.

"We are very willing to permit Spanish use and exploitation of the airport and the participation of Spanish companies to help run it. But we will not accept joint ownership, which would put into doubt our sovereignty over the airport," Mr Caruana said.

Gibraltar's leader wants to pursue the idea of an airport that serves both sides of the border, in the same way as the French airport at Mulhouse permits access to Switzerland without passengers having to pass through cumbersome immigration procedures.

The problem is that Gibraltar airport, unlike the Swiss/French arrangement, is situated on disputed territory — the isthmus that links the old

Rock fortress with the Spanish border town of La Linea. Madrid refuses to open discussions on the airport until it has won the right to plant the Spanish flag on it.

Britain, on Spain's insistence, excluded Gibraltar from Europe's "open skies" regime soon after Spain joined the European Union in 1985.

Mr Caruana says he hopes to meet the Spanish Foreign Minister Abel Matutes to discuss the matter. "I am waiting for Mr Matutes to name a date," he said.

"We would not talk about sovereignty of course, but it could help dispel old suspicions and distrust, and could mark the beginning of a new relationship."

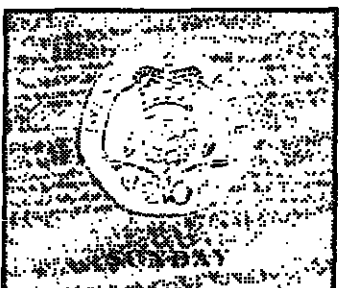
Spain has recently softened its once strident sovereignty claims to Gibraltar in favour of a more conciliatory proposal for a long period of joint Anglo-Spanish sovereignty, which would eventually lead to the absorption of the Rock into Spain, and only then if the Gibraltarians agreed.

Mr Caruana is not entirely persuaded of Spain's good intentions. "We are not prepared to exchange one colonial master for another. That is unacceptable," he said.

"But for the first time, it seems that Madrid has conceded the principle of consent. That is positive."



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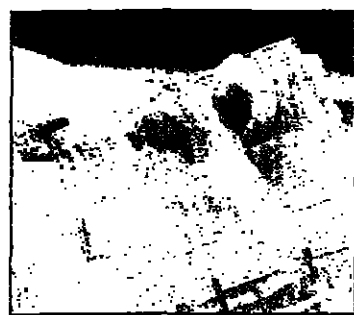
BRIEFING

Liffe decides on longer hours

THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) is to extend the hours of trading in its UK equity products to bring them more into line with underlying markets from 20 July.

The move will mean that trading in all of them will be extended by 10 to 30 minutes in the evening, but three products will start trading 15 to 30 minutes later in the morning. By extending the closing times, Liffe will have a longer overlap with the US stock market and its derivatives, which should reduce the exposure to market risk after the Liffe's close for users of the market.

Coca-Cola priced at top of range



SHARES IN Coca-Cola Beverages, the European soft drink bottling operation which is listing on the London Stock Exchange, will be priced at the "upper end" of the 125p to 160p price range when they start trading on Monday, the company said yesterday.

Almost 200 million shares in the company, representing approximately 20 per cent of the total, are being placed with institutional investors.

CCB is being demerged from Coca-Cola Amatil, the Australian bottling group. Coca-Cola Inc, its parent group in the United States, is retaining a 50.1 per cent stake in CCB.

Investment page 23

Move to force ethical disclosure

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday moved to champion the cause of ethical investment, with proposals to force pension funds to disclose their approach and policies on the issue.

John Denham, the pensions minister at the Department of Social Security, said: "Whether or not investors are aware of it, investment decision making has an ethical dimension."

Mr Denham added: "We are minded to require trustees to disclose to what extent, if any, they have taken account of ethical and social considerations in their investment strategy," he said.

Bank's interest rate hold fails to end fears of a hike

HOW THE MPC MEMBERS CHANGED THEIR MINDS ON INTEREST RATES

	De Anne Julius	Charles Goodhart	John Vickers	Mervyn King	Eddie George	David Clementi	Ian Plenderleith	Willem Buiter	Alan Budd
Feb/Mar	No change	Higher	Absent	Higher	No change	No change	No change	Higher	Higher
Apr	No change	No change	Absent	Higher	No change	No change	No change	Higher	Higher
May	Cut	No change	Absent	No change	No change	No change	No change	Higher	No change
Forecast for Jun	Cut	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	No change	Higher	Higher	Higher
Forecast for Jul	Cut	Higher	No change	Higher	No change	No change	No change	Higher	Higher

THE BANK OF ENGLAND's decision to keep rates on hold at 7.5 per cent was warmly received by industry figures, but prompted a mixed reaction in the City, where some economists accused the Bank of inconsistency.

The markets remain unconvinced that UK interest rates have peaked, and several economists yesterday predicted the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would raise rates at its next meeting in August.

Paul Mortimer-Lee at Paribas said the MPC had acted with the "consistency of a World Cup referee". He added: "Over the last month it has been difficult to see that the news has been supportive of anything but another hike."

Last month, the MPC raised interest rates by 0.25 per cent, citing concerns about the impact of earnings growth on inflation as one reason for the hike. Since the June decision, there have been few signs of a slowdown in pay growth.

Other economists, however, said the MPC may have been swayed by growing evidence of a slowdown in the services sector, and pointed out that manufacturing figures had been far worse than expected.

The appreciation of sterling after the June rate hike is also thought to have been a factor. Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said: "The picture is one of slowdown. What has concerned and confused the markets is the Bank's reaction last month."

Sterling closed at DM2.982, virtually unchanged on the day, reflecting the market view that the MPC decision had little impact on the UK interest rate

outlook. Industry figures were relieved by the decision to keep rates unchanged, but remained concerned about the prospect of another rate rise in August.

Graham Mackenzie, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) said: "We would urge the MPC as soon as possible to signal that interest rates have peaked."

The announcement prompted another round of speculation about the identity of the "hawk" on the MPC who voted for a rate rise. The general consensus in the City was that Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England voted to keep rates on hold, along with Ian Plenderleith, David Clementi and John Vickers - all three of whom are Bank staff.

DeAnne Julius - the only MPC member who has stated that interest rates are too high - is widely believed to have

stood her ground and voted for a cut. Professors Willem Buiter, Charles Goodhart and Alan Budd, all external MPC members, are thought likely to have voted for a rate hike.

City economists were most uncertain about Mervyn King, he is likely to have felt some pressure to vote with the Governor, although he has broken ranks on previous occasions, and voted for an increase. Assuming the hawkish Mr King voted for a rate hike, this would mean the vote would be split four in favour of an increase, four in favour of no change and one in favour of a rate cut. Mr George would then have had to use his casting vote to keep rates on hold.

No-one will know for certain how each MPC member voted until the minutes of yesterday's meeting are published in

six weeks time. The minutes of June's meeting - when a majority of MPC members voted for an interest rate increase - will be published next Wednesday, but newspaper leaks have suggested the Committee voted seven to two for a rise.

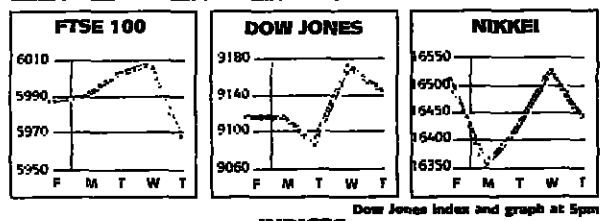
The general sentiment in the City yesterday was that it was far from clear that the next move in UK interest rates would be down. Many thought the Bank would wait and look at another month's worth of data before coming to a decision. Others noted the Bank this month would be preparing the August Inflation Report - a detailed assessment of prospects for the UK economy - and so would be listening to detailed presentations about the impact of changes in the Government's fiscal stance and of the minimum wage on the inflation outlook.

Separately, an inadvertent leak of data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggested that bonuses added 0.6 per cent to the rate of growth of average earnings in May. The ONS mistakenly released the data to a news wire yesterday morning. However, economists said the numbers provided few clues about the actual level of earnings growth, due for official release on Wednesday.

The Government's decision to cap public expenditure at a real annual growth rate of 2.75 per cent is widely seen in the City as a loosening of fiscal policy. There also has been controversy over the move to exclude the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) from the public expenditure totals, which could allow the Government to increase spending by an extra £5bn a year, according to some estimates.

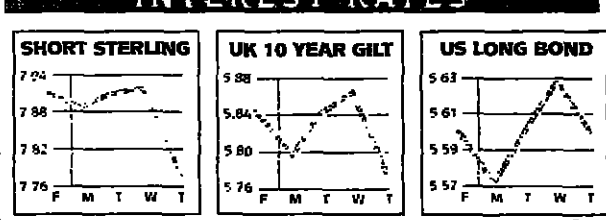
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STOCK MARKETS



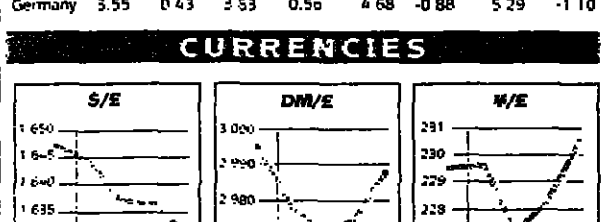
Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD %
FTSE 100	5969.70	-39.80	6150.50	4382.80	3.84
FTSE 250	5623.30	-11.30	5970.90	4384.20	3.45
FTSE 350	2878.10	-14.70	2940.10	2141.80	3.77
FTSE All Share	2802.80	-13.60	2872.04	2106.59	3.73
FTSE SmallCap	2586.80	-2.70	2793.80	2182.10	3.15
FTSE Fledgling	1416.80	-0.30	1517.10	1225.20	3.17
FTSE AIM	1090.20	1.10	1146.90	965.90	1.09
FTSE EBLIC 100	1086.36	-3.64	1146.90	965.90	1.09
Dow Jones	9144.58	-36.12	9761.91	6971.32	1.56
Nikkei	16466.95	-84.02	20598.67	14488.21	0.93
Hang Seng	8433.78	-195.40	16820.31	7351.68	4.85
Dax	5996.77	-16.37	6022.15	3487.24	2.67

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	10 Year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.88	0.61	8.00	0.50	5.77	1.31	5.38
US	5.69	-0.06	5.81	-0.22	5.40	-0.86	5.60
Japan	0.52	-0.02	0.55	-0.16	1.66	-0.91	2.19
Germany	3.55	0.43	3.63	0.56	4.68	-0.88	5.29

CURRENCIES



Index	at close	Change	Yr Ago	at close	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6512	-0.332c	1.6845	Sterling	0.6130	+0.19p
D-Mark	2.9961	+1.14pt	2.9521	D-Mark	1.6291	+1.05pt
Yen	230.54	+22.01	190.17	Yen	141.32	+11.87
Silver	105.70	+0.00	104.10	Silver	113.00	0.00

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.77	0.15	18.27	GDP	114.80	3.00	111.46
Gold (\$)	251.10	-2.05	318.25	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91
Silver (\$)	5.34	0.01	4.28	Base Rates	7.50	6.50	

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5685	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.26
Austria (schillings)	20.33	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2600
Belgium (francs)	59.78	New Zealand (\$)	3.0470
Canada (\$)	2.3486	Norway (kroner)	12.34
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8436	Portugal (escudos)	293.31
Denmark (krone)	11.09	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9554
Finland (markka)	8.8485	Singapore (\$)	2.7043
France (francs)	6.6893	Spain (pesetas)	240.66
Germany (marks)	2.9034	South Africa (rand)	8.1884
Greece (drachma)	481.96	Sweden (kroner)	12.68
Hong Kong (\$)	12.28	Switzerland (francs)	2.6722
Ireland (pounds)	1.1477	Thailand (bahts)	61.12
India (rupees)	63.90	Turkey (liras)	423564
Israel (shekels)	5.5432	USA (\$)	1.5964
Italy (lira)	2866		
Japan (yen)	224.72		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.5039		
Malta (lira)	0.6278		

Kwik Save goes as 5,000 jobs created

THE KWIK SAVE name could disappear from British high streets within three or four years after a decision by Somerfield, which merged with the company in March, to convert all Kwik Save supermarkets to the Somerfield format.

The move would end 30 years of high-street history. Kwik Save opened its first store in Rhyl, north Wales, in 1965 and grew to become Britain's biggest discount supermarket, with almost 1,000 stores.

It also marks a change of plan by the Somerfield management, which at the time of the merger had planned to keep around 300 Kwik Save stores to retain a presence in the discount sector. "We decided it would be more beneficial to have all the stores trading under one brand," said David Simons, Somerfield's chief executive.

The move will mean there will be 1,400 supermarkets trading under the Somerfield name, a bigger chain than any other UK retailer, including Boots the Chemists, which has 1,321.

The Gateway name, which used to be Somerfield's main trading format, will disappear by the end of next year as the remainder are converted to branches of Somerfield. Its Food Giant discount stores, hailed as the company's great hope in the early 1990s, will be converted to Kwik Saves in the short term and then closed or re-branded under the Somerfield banner. There may be a rumour of Kwik Save stores left if some prove unsuitable for conversion but the plan is effectively to manage the name out of existence.

Phil Smith, Somerfield's marketing director, who used to be on the Kwik Save board, said: "It is inevitably sad to see a brand name disappear but we believe customers will see benefits. Kwik Save was a format that did well in the mid-1980s and early 1990s but it became a victim of its own success. It didn't listen to its customers."

The conversion programme will create 5,000 new jobs over the next 18 months. However, almost 700 jobs will go at Kwik Save's head office in Prestatyn, in Wales, which is being closed.

The announcement came as

Somerfield reported an 11 per cent rise in operating profits to £128m and a better than expected current trading statement. News that like-for-like sales in Somerfield stores are up by 3.9 per cent in the 10 weeks since April pushed shares up 33p to a new high of 426p. This compares to the 145p issue price when the company was floated nearly two years ago.

However, exceptional charges of £136m related to the costs of the Kwik Save rationalisation pushed the group to a £10m loss for the year.

Ken Hill, finance director, received a bonus of £75,000 on top of his annual salary of £101,000, taking his total pay to £176,000. Meanwhile South West's chief executive, Robert Baty, and the head of its waste and construction businesses, Colin Drummond, each received bonuses of £36,000 on annual salaries of £93,000.

News of the bonuses emerged as the annual report of the Ofwat National Customer Council, showed that South West Water received the highest rate of complaints of any water company in 1997-98. South West received 8.9 complaints for every 10,000 homes against a national average of 4.1.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has recently warned that the Government may clamp down on excessive pay awards in the water industry.

A spokesman for South West Water said that the bonuses awarded to executives covered two years and that in the case of Mr Hill, part of his bonus was linked to the sale of the company's 25-per-cent stake in West Country Television.

Brussels lobbied on gas plant ban

A DEVELOPER of gas-fired power stations is to lobby Brussels to try to get the British moratorium on further stations reversed.

The US group Enron, which is facing a block on plans to build 1,200 megawatt stations at Ebbw Vale and the Isle of Grain, may also enlist the Clinton Administration to try to force a change of strategy.

Ralph Hodge, chairman of Enron Europe, said: "We will use any channel we think is relevant in this process." He said Enron would point out to the European Commission the environmental implications of

Lloyd's names rally to resist corporate trend

LLOYD'S of London names yesterday voted overwhelmingly to condemn moves to squeeze them out of the insurance market, saying a big influx of corporate money would cause Lloyd's to fail.

As insurance companies launched renewed bids to buy names out, members said Lloyd's was jeopardising its solvency by allowing corporate capital to dominate the market.

In a debate on the future of Lloyd's hosted by the bankers Leopold Joseph, names voted 200-6 for a motion condemning moves to exclude them.

Edgar Harborne, a consultant

statistician and name since 1989, said: "If we go down this route Lloyd's will fail ... Corporate capital won't want to stand by us through the hard times." Corporate capital, originally seen as the white knight which rescued Lloyd's from huge losses in the early 1990s, is increasingly viewed by names as a Trojan horse.

Fears that corporate capital could damage Lloyd's solvency have found support at credit ratings agencies, which now rate it at A+, well below the best rating available.

Corporate members of Lloyd's are increasingly seeking to buy names' share of the market.

Cox Insurance yesterday offered names 25p in cash or shares for every £1 of business they underwrite. The £40m deal will give Cox a 4 per cent share of the market.

But names are resisting the trend. Michael Wade, founder of CLM Insurance, the first corporate member of Lloyd's, was yesterday accused of "a slight touch of Stalinism" after he said it was "unsafe" to allow names to continue on the basis of unlimited liability.

The focus on the IMF bailout overshadowed the news that the Russian central bank had spent \$300-500m a day last week to support the ailing rouble.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

UNCHANGED INTEREST rates were accorded a mixed reception. At first Footsie moved ahead but then worries surfaced that an increase had merely been delayed and the euphoria quickly evaporated.

The blue-chip index ended a six-day winning run with a 39.9 points fall to 5,969.7. Telecoms, which have been in rampant form, weakened as stockbroker Henderson Crosthwaite questioned current valuations. Orange lost 36.5p to 670p; Vodafone 38p to 77p.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

STOCKS were mixed at midday as Wall Street struggled to establish a clear picture about second-quarter profits. Blue chips fell modestly, while shares in technology companies surged on earnings optimism.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 35 points to 9,140, dragged down by a profits warning from chemical giant Du Pont. The Standard & Poor's 500 was also lower, trading two points below Wednesday's record close of 1,168.38.

TOKYO

JAPANESE STOCKS fell for the first time in four days yesterday after Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, failed to clarify the extent of tax cuts planned for next April. The Nikkei index fell 84.03 points to 16,446.95, as the premier's evasiveness revived fears the economic slump would continue well into the next year.

Steelmakers and textile companies, which have risen recently on hopes that the tax cuts would help kick start the economy, led the decline.

GERMANY

GERMAN STOCKS declined yesterday, with Lufthansa among the big fallers following a European Commission's ruling on its alliance with United Airlines, the US airline. The benchmark DAX Xetra index fell 18.06 points to 6000.83, on the cusp of the 6000 threshold breached for the first time on Wednesday.

The German mark touched a three-month low against the dollar on concerns over Russia, one of Germany's largest trading partners.

RUSSIA

THE RUSSIAN market closed higher on short-covering despite news that the central bank spent over \$11bn to defend the rouble last week. The RTS index closed up 1.11 per cent at 88.44 in thin trading, as dealers remained on the sidelines awaiting today's decision on the International Monetary Fund's rescue package.

The focus on the IMF bailout overshadowed the news that the Russian central bank had spent \$300-500m a day last week to support the ailing rouble.

Inflation is still the bigger danger

UP UNTIL now, it has been easy for the Government to blame the problem of rising interest rates and the strong pound on the previous lot and the mini boom they belatedly manufactured in the run up to the last election. While there is still some truth in this, the excuse is beginning to wear just a little thin.

We are now more than a year into Britain's "new dawn" and Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, has a point when he insists that the Government should begin to bear some responsibility for what is happening in the economy.

But first, yesterday's decision by the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee to leave interest rates unchanged. As the markets correctly surmised, this is not a decision at all really, but one deferred. The MPC has chickened out of erring on the side of caution, which dictates a rise in interest rates to be certain of meeting the Government's inflation target, and instead has caved into public opinion, whose siren warnings of recession may be heartfelt but are also almost certainly misguided.

A monetary policy run by the opinion polls may be what you expect from politicians, but it was to



OUTLOOK

avoid this, and finally to banish that great bane of the British economy - repeated periods of high inflation - that the Bank of England was given its independence. To be fair, the judgement is obviously a fine one at the moment. The runaway service sector is beginning to slow and profit related pay, an important element of the growth in earnings, is being phased out.

At the same time, however, Government policy is beginning to work in the other direction. The minimum wage is bound to be inflationary, and as several members of the MPC have already warned, the Government's spending plans will add to the pressure on prices

too. It may be that like Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, the MPC will end up being lucky and that the economy is now cooling at a rate which justifies unchanged interest rates. But it's taking quite a risk by adopting this stance. And given the UK's past propensity to periods of high inflation, it is not appropriate to do so. Moreover, it will be the worst of all possible worlds if interest rates have to go up next month, or the month after.

Arguably, we wouldn't be in this fix if the MPC had done more at an earlier stage to choke off price pressures.

Returning to who's responsible, obviously present inflationary pressures are down to the last Government. But Mr Maude is probably right to claim that interest rates are going to have to be higher for longer than otherwise because of the Government's spending and minimum wage plans. Many thought the 2.5 per cent a year real growth the next three years in public spending announced by the Chancellor last month already too high. Factoring in extra capital spending, that figure rises to 2.75 per cent. Factoring in the Working Families Tax Credit, which the

Government is accounting for against tax rather than spending, and the figure rises to more than 3 per cent. That's considerably more than any likely growth in the economy, even assuming we aren't heading for a recession.

All that said, it is important to get the situation in perspective. Things aren't going dramatically wrong in the economy yet. Inflation is higher than it should be. Interest rates and the pound are also too high for some. The Government is planning to spend more than it should and the economy is slowing markedly. On the other hand, there's highly unlikely to be a recession and the public finances are in good shape compared to many of our Continental counterparts. But the warning signs are flashing amber all over the place, and the Chancellor is not looking as unshakable as he was.

Somerfield on a roll at last

YOU CAN'T blame David Simons, Somerfield's chief executive, for grinning like a Cheshire cat yesterday. It was an "I told you so, and now you're gonna believe us," kind

of look. It is not yet two years since Somerfield staggered to the stock market, looking like an accident waiting to happen. Mr Simons had to endure a good deal of criticism.

Almost given away on a single figure multiple and a yield of nearly 10 per cent, many UK investors remained wary of this former Gateway business. They believed that though the shares were cheap they were cheap for a reason: because Somerfield was a weak player in a fiercely competitive market dominated by some of the most efficient and innovative companies in Britain.

American value funds thought differently and gradually accumulated 40 per cent of the stock. They are now looking very clever indeed. Somerfield's total return to shareholders has been over 150 per cent since flotation and the shares have more than doubled in the last six months.

In the end, however, this is less a retail success story than a tale of successful value investing. What has transformed Somerfield's valuation is the merger with Kwik Save. Credit then to those investment bankers at SBC Warburg who together with Dairy Farm and PDDFM, Kwik Save's biggest shareholders, took the merger idea to Mr

Simons. By all accounts he was sceptical at first, but if he was he must be jolly glad he came round.

Given Kwik Save's recent disasters, his scepticism was understandable. Indeed there has been no retail wizardry in the way this deal has worked for shareholders. Its success is not about industry-beating sales growth or new initiatives in home delivery and stores on petrol forecourts. It is about synergies, cost-cutting and buying power. Mr Simons has proved himself a good nuts and bolts manager who knows how to make assets sweat.

Now he has to prove he's a good retailer. This is a company with 1,400 stores, serving 15 million customers and generating £200m of sales. That's a solid enough foundation for anyone. The stock market's ugly duckling is not about to turn into a swan but it's plainly going to turn out rather better than a duck.

Tourist taxes and water rates

ONE OF the advantages of living in Cornwall is that it is not London or Birmingham. But alas, it is not all majestic scenery and Californian sum-

mers. Along with the coastline, of which there is an awful lot, there also comes a monster-sized bill for cleaning up the West Country's beaches.

As things stand this is met out of the water rates, which helps explain why South West Water's customers have by far the biggest bills in the country. So now along comes the Ofwat National Customer Council with a wizard idea for sharing some of the pain. Why not impose a "tourist tax" so that those who use the wonderful beaches, also contribute to their clean up? The tax would not be levied on carloads of overheating holidaymakers as they cross the county border. Instead it would be paid by local businesses. But since they would pass it on in the shape of higher prices faster than you can say one clotted cream tea please, it amounts to much the same thing.

Luckily the idea is a non-starter. There is the practical problem of selecting only those businesses which serve the tourist as opposed to local trade. There is also an important principle here, which is that customer bills should reflect the cost of providing goods and services. The Cornish will just have to continue paying for their spectacular views.

IN BRIEF

Centrica wins power customers

MORE THAN 250,000 households have signed contracts with British Gas for a domestic electricity supply two months ahead of the introduction of electricity competition, Centrica said yesterday. A further 1.5 million have registered to receive details of its electricity offer, which is on average 12 per cent cheaper than current prices, it said. Centrica's chief executive, Roy Gardner, said the take-up demonstrated the level of interest in the soon-to-be-deregulated market. "This is further evidence of the need for early legislation to establish a proper basis for competition and to ensure customers see the full benefits," he said.

Bundesbank post

THE German government has nominated Hermann Remperger, chief economist at BHF Bank in Frankfurt, to succeed Oskar Issing as chief economist of the Bundesbank after Mr Issing's elevation to the European Central Bank. Mr Remperger has been endorsed by the Bundesbank President, Hans Tietmeyer, and his appointment should soon be confirmed by the German President, Roman Herzog.

Jürgen Stark, finance state secretary, will succeed Bundesbank vice-president Johann-Wilhelm Gaddum, who has stepped down after reaching retirement age. One seat is still left open on the Bundesbank's policy making board.

ECB's euro policy

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank executive board member, Eugenio Domingo Solans, said a mixture of monetary and inflation targeting would be the most suitable tool for monetary policy in the euro zone. "A strategy which combines both direct inflation targeting and intermediate monetary targeting appears to be the best option, at least at the start of the third phase of monetary union," Mr Solans said. "The stability of demand for money in the euro zone economy is the key element when considering the extent to which one or other strategy is applied," he added.

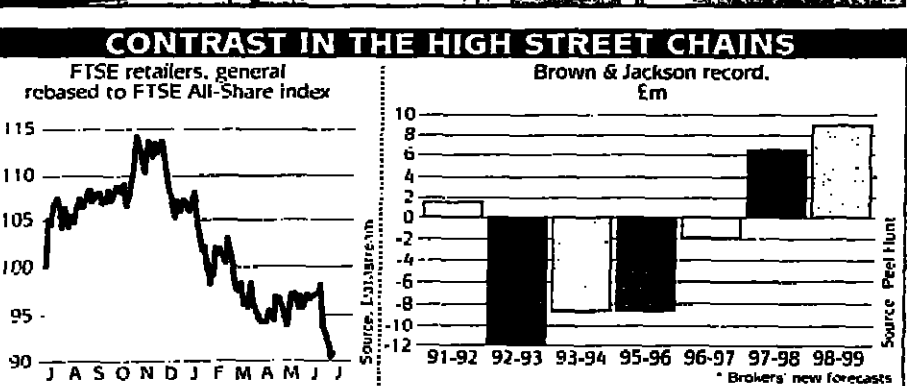
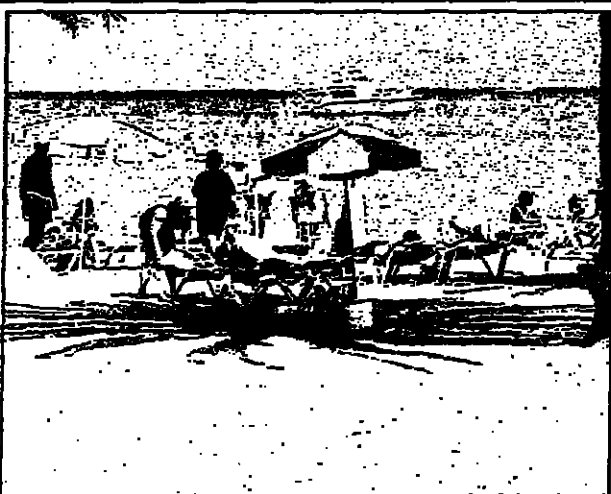
The ECB has not yet decided what indicators to use to safeguard price stability in the euro zone. Yesterday the ECB decided to adopt the principle of minimum reserves as a monetary policy tool.

Options windfall

THE FINANCE director of S Daniels, Nicholas Beart, has made £36,550 through the exercise of share options in the group, the company said yesterday.

Mr Beart exercised options to buy 150,000 ordinary shares in the company at 3.3p each under the group's ESOP option rollover agreements, entered into at the time of the company's acquisition of The New Covent Garden Soup Company. He later sold these shares at 41p each.

News Analysis: As expensive outlets struggle, discount shops such as Poundstretcher are thriving



Profits warnings from a string of major multiples paint a picture of a high street struggling under the weight of rising interest rates, poor summer weather and sporting diversions such as the World Cup. While people are spending on costly items such as restaurants and exotic holidays, low-ticket outlets such as Poundstretcher and What Everyone Wants are also winning the battle: they have lifted the investor gloom with predictions of significantly improved sales and earnings as they prove more resilient to economic uncertainties.

Andrew Buurman

Tough times when cheap is cheerful

BROWN & JACKSON, the discount retailer best known for its Poundstretcher and What Everyone Wants shops, offered some relief to the struggling high street shops yesterday.

Instead of warning of setbacks in sales or profits, as Dixons, The Rack, Allied Carpets and DFS Furniture have all done recently, it said it expects its earnings for the year to June "significantly to exceed current market expectations". It will reveal just how significantly on 21 August.

Brown & Jackson shares rose 10.5p to a new high of 65p as brokers raised their profit forecasts from £4.9m to £5.5m for 1997/98 and from £7.2m to £8m for 1998/99, compared with a loss in the last period of £1.9m.

The chief executive, Johan Visser, explained that the company's second-half trading had been "considerably better" than the board expected at the time of the half-year figures, due to restructuring of prices, its product mix, its distribution centres and cuts in central costs.

Mr Visser said the company had bought 19 shops in the Midlands from Musesfield, a non-food discount retailer, and will change them into Poundstretcher and What Everyone Wants outlets, bringing the group's total number of outlets to 485.

Brown & Jackson's statement sounds like a throwback to happier days in the high street, and is exactly the kind of tonic the City and investors need to remind them that consumers have not disappeared off the face of the earth entirely and that the retail trade has not been obliterated by this summer's deluge of interest rate rises, poor weather and World Cup telemania.

But analysts also recognise that the company is a bit exceptional. It has been struggling in the red for most of the past 10 years and is being revived by a relatively new South African management team.

Mr Visser points out that most of the improvement in profits has come from en-

hanced profit margins: sales are not particularly buoyant. "It's all moving in the right direction, but like others in the retail trade we would like to see the sun shining," he said.

Brown & Jackson is also trading in the right sort of cut-price goods at the moment. Its prices start at 21p for confectionery and 49p for children's underwear, and extend no higher than £19.99 for clothing and hardware items.

Consumer spending has started to come under pressure this year from high interest rates, a slowing economy and the absence of last year's building society windfall payments.

But the axe has not fallen equally on all types of spending or goods. People are still spending widely on cars, restaurants, financial ventures and exotic long-haul holidays, with trips to China, India, Australia and Thailand taking over a lot of business from their traditional holiday destinations of Spain, France, Italy and Greece.

Sales of cars, catering and other services have far outpaced the 4.5 per cent rise in consumer spending in recent months, while the trade gap in travel has widened by 50 per cent in the past two years.

While all that is welcome, something has had to give in the current climate, and that something is the high street and "big ticket" items such as computers, furniture, carpets, clothing and footwear. Several companies in these sectors have been responsible for the profit warnings in recent months.

There are no similar signs of weakness in "small ticket" sales such as food and household products from the supermarkets and out-of-town superstores, which are also competing more with the high streets on clothing, toiletries, banking, insurance, petrol, plants, newspapers and hardware.

Supermarket chain Somerfield sounded buoyant yesterday, and stores such as Poundstretcher and What

Everyone Wants fit into the same picture. Healthy superstore sales and "small ticket" traders make a sharp contrast with the more traditional retailers like Liberty, Allsders, Mappin & Webb and Robert Dyas, which are promoting "50 per cent off" or "Half Price" sales this month.

They also show a sharp contrast to the likes of Dixons, which warns that sales are down 10 per cent this year, and profits warnings from furniture, carpet and tie retailers.

Now the City is waiting anxiously for up-to-date trading statements from the high street giants such as Marks & Spencer, GUS, Debenhams and Next. Investors fear that most will report setbacks in their half-year profit figures.

Some certainly will. Last week's CBI distributive trades survey for June showed retail sales well below retailers' expectations. It suggested that the slowdown was chiefly weather-related and also reflected last month's interest rate rise, general economic uncertainty and the World Cup diversion.

Investors have joined with consumers in deserting the high street over the past six months as expectations of earnings growth for general retailers have collapsed from well over 10 per cent to just 2 per cent, with the risk that even that will turn out to be too high.

The stock of major high street traders has already fallen 15 per cent against the market this year, and a handful of the worst performers such as DFS Furniture, MFI, Allied Carpets, The Rack and John David Sports, have plunged over 50 per cent against the FTSE All Share.

Hopefully, investors have switched into supermarket shares, or Brown & Jackson, or utilities or drugs, which are buffered against falls in consumer spending, recession, weather patterns and sporting distractions.

On Sunday the World Cup ends. The weather might improve and high street stores might be curbing their sales. But don't count on it until it happens.

Bloomberg

Deutsche Bank in the hunt for a US securities firm

EUROPE'S SECOND-largest bank, Deutsche Bank, yesterday said it is considering buying a US securities firm - a week after a team of its top investment bankers in the US quit to join a rival.

Michael Philipp, head of equities worldwide, told employees at the company's US trading and underwriting subsidiary, Deutsche Bank

Securities, that it has a "gaping hole" in its investment banking business. He was referring to the surprise departure of Frank Quattrone, the banker responsible for technology companies - and much of his Silicon Valley-based staff - to Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB). "The franchise has to be replaced," and the firm could have a plan ready by 17 July, Mr

Philipp said. "If we don't do anything, we're sitting here dead in the water."

The statement revives speculation that Deutsche Bank is set to make an acquisition, as it reorganises its global investment banking business after disappointing profits in the last few years. Several senior executives have left the company, including

investment banking heads Maurice Thompson and Carter McClelland, who wooed Quattrone's group from Morgan Stanley & Co in 1996.

Deutsche Bank's strategy needs to be in place by the end of the year, though an acquisition isn't the only option, Philipp said, adding that it has already talked to lawyers and had internal strategists crunch

numbers. He did not mention possible purchase targets.

Mr Philipp said the firm is committed to the US investment banking business, contrary to analysts' assertions. The firm would also look at establishing a larger base beyond technology banking in the event of an acquisition.

One potential candidate to replace Quattrone's group is

Hambrecht & Quist Group, the largest independent investment bank specialising in technology and based in San Francisco. Its shares rose 5.7 per cent in the past week on speculation it would be bought.

Larger candidates could include PaineWebber or even Lehman Brothers, both of whose parent companies' shares soared this year amid

record profits on Wall Street and merger speculation.

"Deutsche Bank must buy an investment bank in the US if it wants to be one of the top players worldwide," said Dieter Hein, a banking analyst at Commerzbank AG. "They've already tried internal growth and it didn't work."

Pen

Hallmark pays £188m for card firm

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

KEITH CHAPMAN, the chairman of Creative Publishing, is set to receive £15m from the sale of his stake in the greeting card company following yesterday's £188m takeover offer by Hallmark Cards of the US.

The deal, which will create the UK's largest card company, will put an end to Creative Publishing's brief spell as an independent quoted company, just nine months after it was spun off from mail order group Fine Art Developments.

Mr Chapman yesterday agreed to sell his 8.5 per cent holding in the Bradford-based company to privately-owned Hallmark at the offer price of 233p per share, a 37.5 per cent

year bought a small UK card producer could launch a counter-bid to force its rival to pay more for the company, he said.

Shares in Creative Publishing, which specialises in manufacturing cards for retailers such as Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's, yesterday rose 57.5p to 227p, boosted by the news of the Hallmark offer and the prospect of a counter-bid.

If the Hallmark bid is completed, the combined company will have a 30 per cent share of the £1bn-a-year UK card market, with 3,000 staff and three manufacturing plants.

Both companies said that a monopoly inquiry was unlikely as the card market in the UK is very fragmented and the deal would not reduce price competition in the industry.

Keith Alm, the chairman of Hallmark's UK subsidiary, yesterday said there would be no job losses as the two businesses were complementary. "This is not a slash and burn takeover, the object of the deal is to grow," he said.

Mr Alm, who is to head the combined group, said the deal would combine Hallmark's traditional strength in branded cards, including the Forever Friends and Peanuts series, with Creative Publishing's expertise in own-brand cards.

Mr Chapman said the takeover was "a good deal for Creative Publishers' shareholders and employees."

"It is a good deal for shareholders because since the merger the shares have gone nowhere, while employees are safeguarded [in their jobs] because the two companies are so complementary."

Mr Chapman, who remains chairman of Fine Art Developments, said he had no "particular plans" to invest or spend his £15m gain.



Keith Chapman: Personal stake earned him £15m

premium to Wednesday's closing price.

The chairman and his fellow directors said they would sell to Hallmark even in the event of a higher bid, amid market speculation that Hallmark's arch-rival, American Greetings, might top the offer.

One market insider said that he "knew for a fact" that American Greetings had "had a look at Creative Publishing". American Greetings, which earlier this



At RAF Brize Norton, the Queen and Prince Philip using one of the Royal Squadron aircraft - as supported by Firth Holdings Rer Features

Firth takes to the air to offset steel slump

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

FIRTH HOLDINGS, the Yorkshire stainless steel manufacturer, has suffered twin setbacks due to the strong pound and a 40 per cent drop in prices of its main products. But the group is optimistic about prospects for its aircraft repair management business.

Profits plunged from £1.7m to £1m in the year to March, de-

spite a rise of nearly £10m in sales to £51.1m and a 65 per cent rise in exports of stainless steel plate, on which the group concentrated to offset a softer home market.

The chairman, Sir Alan Thomas, says the rise in sterling cut steel profits by £1.4m

"due to the translation effect alone", while stainless steel prices fell a further 18 per cent.

The group invested £1m in building up its promising aircraft repair management business, Airinmar, which it bought for £4.5m a year ago, reducing operating profits there to £860,000.

However, Sir Alan is edging up the dividend from 0.25p to

0.3p, and is optimistic about prospects. He warns that Firth is having to work hard to hold its own in steel, but is more cheerful about Airinmar, which he hopes could become the main spur to the group's future prosperity. Airinmar raised sales from £12.2m to £22.8m last year and has won valuable new contracts in the past quarter.

These include an extension of an arrangement with British Aerospace Regional Aircraft, a new deal with BAE's turboprop arm, a third contract with South African airline Safair and a prestigious outsourcing contract from the Ministry of Defence to support the RAF Royal Squadron, which carries the Queen and Royal Family.

Asian crisis 'to affect world growth for years'

BY LEA PATERSON

THE PROLONGED financial crisis in Asia will affect world economic growth for at least the next three years, according to research published yesterday.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said the global implications of the Asian crisis were far worse than first feared, and predicted that output would fall sharply in most

Asian countries in 1998. World GDP growth in 1998 will be almost half that in 1997, according to the study, and growth will not recover fully for three more years.

Previously, the EIU had forecast that the Asian crisis would affect world growth for another

two years. However, the research institute said it did not expect a world slump.

The EIU said: "Recovery from this global slowdown will be sluggish. There seems little prospect of a rapid bounce-back in Asia. The crisis will be a drawn-out affair."

The Japanese recession will be deeper than initially thought,

according to the EIU, which predicted that Japanese GDP would contract by 1.6 per cent. Without the recently announced government fiscal stimulus package, GDP growth could have contracted by more than 3 per cent.

"If substantive reforms are not implemented [in Japan] we see little prospect of recovery over the next few years," the EIU said.

Growth in North America is predicted to slow from last year's rate of 3.8 per cent to a low of 1.9 per cent in 2000. The slowdown in Europe is expected to be less marked, with growth falling from 2.9 per cent this year to 2.6 per cent in 2001.

The EIU estimated that European GDP would be 0.5 per cent higher this year had it not been for the Asian crisis. World GDP is predicted to slow from 4 per cent in 1997 to 2.3 per cent in 1998, and is not expected to attain its pre-crisis rates until 2001.

The EIU is forecasting that world inflation over the next four years will remain more or less steady at 3.6 per cent.

Opening shot in trust battle

BY ANDREW VERITY

A BATTLE for control of the £595m Scottish National Trust broke out yesterday as Aberdeen Asset Managers put in a hostile bid to wrest the company from Gartmore, its current investment managers.

Aberdeen weighed in to offer shares in the high-performing Aberdeen Preferred Income Trust in exchange for shares in SNT, a split-capital investment trust due to wind up in September.

In a move which infuriated Gartmore, Aberdeen said it was making the offer to SNT shareholders as "an alternative to wind-up", allowing shareholders to continue investing and defer any capital gains tax.

The hostile bid is being engineered by the broker Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie, which has a reputation for attacking the credibility of Gartmore as the "just investment managers."

Derek Morgan, chairman of Aberdeen Preferred, said: "I believe this offer provides Scottish National shareholders with the opportunity to exchange their holdings for Aberdeen Preferred shares on what will be an appealing and tax-efficient basis."

Aberdeen Preferred is financing the deal with a placing and increase in bank facilities which has nearly doubled its assets from £140m to £260m.

Gartmore yesterday reacted furiously to the hostile bid, which disrupts its own plans to offer shareholders an alternative to wind-up. Gartmore is on the verge of announcing plans for a new trust into which investors could roll over.

Gartmore also claimed that shareholders who accepted the bid would be left in a company with 100 per cent gearing, compared to 30 per cent.

Sandy Struthers, chairman of the trust, said: "The Aberdeen Preferred offer exposes shareholders to a completely different underlying investment risk, whereas the board's rollover proposals are expected to replicate SNT's successful investment strategy."

Last year Brewin Dolphin claimed plans to roll over some of SNT's investors into a Second Scottish National Trust would be "the most spectacular misfire the sector has seen".

Brent drive to raise cash

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

BRENT INTERNATIONAL yesterday put two of the company's three divisions up for sale with a £65m price tag to raise the cash to expand and develop the remaining division into a specialised company with a greatly increased return on capital.

Inks, coatings and adhesives, which made £4.4m before interest and tax, or about a third of the group's profit last year, is for sale with a price tag of up to £50m. The Imaging Development division, which makes wrappings for Walker's crisps and Nestlé and Mars bars contributed £2.2m to profits but is suffering from competition and the strength of sterling.

It is on the market for £18m, and negotiations are under way with potential purchasers. Brent chief executive Keith Hutchings said yesterday:

"The proceeds will be used initially to reduce net debt but the ultimate aim is to acquire new businesses, expand the surface sciences and aerospace division, which last year accounted for 43 per cent of turnover and 51 per cent of

group profits, and look for applications of a environmentally friendly new technology for pre-treating metals prior to plating or painting without the use of heavy metals and phosphates. The technology, code-named Project Oldenberg, was developed at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, with financial backing from Brent and could pave the way for a new generation of rust-proofing techniques, analysts said after a briefing with the company.

Yesterday's announcement is the culmination of a strategic review which began in 1994 and has seen group gearing reduced from 55 per cent to 12 per cent, chairman Alec Daly said. Brent believes the expanded surface sciences and aerospace division could treble sales to £150m a year within three to five years and generate profits of more than £22m before tax, valuing the company at more than twice its current market cap of £30m. The disposals will create some restructuring charges in the current year, but the dividend will be not less than last year. The shares rose 13p to 116.5p.

Wall St braced for SEC fines

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

AMERICA'S Securities and Exchange Commission is discussing a settlement with brokers over alleged price fixing on the Nasdaq market, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday. The deal could mean hefty fines for some of Wall Street's largest firms, and suspensions for many traders. Neither the SEC nor any of the banks would comment on the matter yesterday.

The US Justice Department and the SEC began investigating Nasdaq traders and their self-regulating body, the National Association of Securities Dealers, in 1994. Questions had been raised about the wide trading spreads on Nasdaq, suggesting that traders were

colluding on prices. Their investigation led to the collection of thousands of hours of taped conversations between brokers which revealed extensive price-fixing.

In one tape, a trader asked another to increase his bid by a quarter of a point over the selling price, and his counterpart agreed. He then acknowledged that he was "going, cuz."

The first trader thanked him. The effect of the alleged price fixing would have been to boost profits and income for the traders at the expense of investors.

But the new package of measures would go much further, involving civil charges. The SEC is reported to have briefed Wall Street lawyers about the case and its implications for their clients. A deal between the firms and the SEC may cover the size of the fines and the punishment of the traders. Naming them and suspending them for 30 to 90 days would disproportionately damage their careers, the firms are expected to argue. Some traders may be threatened with permanent suspension. The SEC is unlikely to have much sympathy. The revelations of price fixing damaged confidence in Nasdaq and, by extension, in corporate governance in US stock markets.

The SEC had already indicated that it was preparing civil cases against individual traders, but the latest report suggests that it will also hit the firms involved with fines of up to \$10m.

According to the Journal, PaineWebber and Warburg Dillon Read are particularly vulnerable. The SEC is also said to have held settlement discussions with Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Charles Schwab.

The firms reached a preliminary agreement with the SEC in 1996, which required them to increase supervision.

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ES	FALLS
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Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock
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[illegible]

USE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

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-0.5	2.1	-	290	-	-	MCJ	486
0.0	-	-	487	231	152	M. Currie Export	230
0.0	1.8	-	3680	195	141	M. Currie Morgan	176

[illegible]

0.0	1.9	3904	210	159	MGrl Estyline	192
0.0	1.9	1948	101	62	MGrl Lanthanum	68

[illegible]

0.5	..	-	2406	105	30	Pacific Assets	37	-
0.0	-	-	2425	50	30	Pacific Horizon	34	-
-1.0	-	-	1145	308	285	Pandemon Inc.	295	-

[illegible]

0.0	7.7	-	135	105	Scandor-Spina	127
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473	273	Maxlon Inc	665	6.0	1.6	25.7	502	49	Park Food Co	59	0.0	6.4	21.1	2732	50	33	Albion & Bond	72	0.2	12.0	
1405	940	Male Sublet	1400	0.0	2.1	35.5	2584	49	36	Port Food Co	368	0.0	12.4	4.8	17.5	1397	117	AMCO Corporation	120	0.2	4.3
249	170	Mattco Group	221	-2.3	2.8	16.5	5029	440	518	Subletary	500	0.0	15.4	3.5	26.2	1686	655	Art Green Brewery	655	0.0	4.3
1190	564	Mary Corp	1194	0.0	1.9	18.5	5071	288	288	Subletary	125	33.0	3.3	-	1177	108	Avonbury Inc	105	0.0	-	
328	225	Meyerspark	337	10.0	0.0	23.4	508	156	Southcoats	126	-1.0	2.5	24.5	1690	121	100	Avonbury Inc PLC	105	0.0	-	
1339	-	Meyerspark	1339	-20.0	5.0	19.3	1374	208	194	Thorn	105	-1.0	2.5	24.5	1690	121	100	Avonbury Inc PLC	105	0.0	-

£10,000

534	822	Scorpio	794	0.1	33	18.9	1423	286	190	Alfred	139	0.3	5.0	6999	219	144	860	Technologies	214	0.0		
536	328	Scorpio Radio	794	0.1	22	24.5	1424	268	71	Allied Carpets	75	-0.6	13.0	5.9	1028	135	215	BIG	235	0.0		
556	395	Seashores	800	3.0	3.4	15.6	7497	508	311	Academy Inc	418	3.0	3.0	4.7	157	68	Grand Int Software	170	0.0	34.3		
248	294	Taylor/Finances Co	238	0.0				756	395	Apex	633	0.0	1.2	20.5	7300	262	145	A.C. Coates	194	0.0	2.3	15.0
146	45	Taylor Nelson	131	-0.3	0.9	40.8	3429	73	20	Ashley (I)	30	x 0.0			1081	35	Card Clear	61	-3.5	0.5	30.3	
570	163	Telecom	249	-0.5	1.4	27.3		729	185	Ashley Steel	183	0.0	5.1	10.7	1393	33	Century Computer	71000	0.0		22.5	

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OU

524	296	Bjork	324	0.0	11	53.1	1744	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	598	123	Euro Sings Presents	300	0.0	0	0.0
1	1	Boyz n the	1	0.0				219	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	
525	296	Cam'ron	296	0.0	55.9	3640	357	189	189	189	189	189	189	442	443	Robert Grant	442	0.0	0	0.0
526	15	Clare Peace	15	-0.5			357	189	189	189	189	189	189	414	414	100	100	100	100	
465	127	Devin Robinson	165	0.0			1674	374	216	216	216	216	216	49	49	Thompson	61	5.0	31	98
529	24	Dionysio	34	0.0			1674	374	216	216	216	216	216	49	49	Thompson	61	5.0	31	98
							1674	374	216	216	216	216	216	49	49	Thompson	61	5.0	31	98

On sale at all leading news
14936

65	32	JCY Oil	36	0.0	-	-	4365	778	28	Chimney & Sp	50	0.0	-	21160	172	124	Grook & Henspe	152	x 0.0	
362	3424	LARABEE	38	0.0	-1.0	80.7	1318	676	28	Chimney & Sp	50	0.0	-	21160	172	124	Grook & Henspe	152	x 0.0	
89	57	Monument	57	0.0	-	20.8	2617	161	56	MR	64	0.0	9.6	6	6080	230	140	Handy Underflow	228	0.0
		Panola	10	0.0	2.4	8.0	2475	252	217	Miles Bros	238	-1.5	3.2	15.2	7015	413	220	Hercules Property	387	0.0
		Prather Oil	44	-0.5	-1.7	9.4	1361	203	193	Moscow	169	-1.5	-	-	-	145	55	Higgins Property	130	x 0.0
59	365	Rawlin Oil	43	-1.5	-	-	2521	183	144	New Look Sp	153	0.5	-	-	-	418	8	Ingensworth Energy	900	x 0.0

-15	13	1218	233	171	Scott Arner	225
-13	21	1226	141	104	Scott Easton	136

[illegible]

-0.5	0.9	3827	184	122	Smaller Co	169
+0.5		4296	399	345	St Andrew	389
-1.5	1.8	2461	187	21	Telcom Inc	27

0.28	1,451	457	305	Gottard Co	402	0.0	5.3	12.2	25.45	356	156	Wichita	267	0.4	0.9	17.4	57.95	100	22	Memory Corp	28	0.0	-	-
0.13	2176	70	405	Glenn Pl	49	0.0	11.7	17.1	12.42	374	254	Woods Gate	333	1.0	2.8	10.9	77.54	104	61	Masterpiece Sp	62	0.0	-	-
0.05	2176	311	174	Hanabusa	177	0.0	0.0	4.82	2297									169	45	MemoryPlay Sys	144	6.0	-	-
	3248	593	327	Interwest Capital	65	5.3	2.5	17	17.9	2037	SUPPORT SERVICES 0.199%													
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0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
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0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483	Literary Int	518	0.0	4.3	16.4	60.02	1,300	385	Academy	1575	2.5	3.3	77.6	54.58	130	260	MemoryPlay Sys	283	0.0	2.4	29.2
0.32	3248	435	483																					

00	41	-	3679	270	193	US Savin Cars	250	0
-05	31	-	5585	167	145	Value & Income	162	0
00	03	-	5680	129	95	Value Real Estate	135	0

0	6786	85	51	Pamerson	91	-1.0	6.8	9.2	5696	300	608	BITE	895	2.5	0.1	4227	152	101	Polytec Pharma	140	0.0	-	
0	22	5358	2155	Physical	4015	10.0	2.1	27.1	5659	358	432	Business Post	869	2.5	0.3	25.4	26.4	1	Pharmacy PG	5	0.0	-	
0	3552	1088	603	Pro-Ford	550	-0.3	2.7	26.3	1284	562	237	Caspi Gas	539	0.0	0.5	62.3	28.6	119	Prism Lab	450	-15.0	8.9	
0		648	303	Rothme Park	663	6.0	2.9	24.1	1189	191	0.0	10	Coacatras	159	0.0	1.9	30.0	1623	519	33	Protosources	110	0.0
0	-0.136%	66	44	Rutland	56	0.0	2.0	28.3	2095	611	CHG	1985	0.0	1.2	102.8	47.14	119	53	S Group (Thy) PLC	110	0.0	-12.3	
0	0	787	749	SAT	794	-2.0	8.1	70	3378	400	Comel	450	0.0	1.6	77.4	32.18	108	630	Remco Energy	820	n-2.5	-407.4	

0.0	1.9	-	21.2	134	68	Bluebird Toys	115	C
0.10	2.0	-	43.74	1075	563	Boosey & Harlow	645	C
0.10	0.9	-	38.9	201	189	Alameda Health Inc.	181	C

		PAPER & PRINTING		0.86%									
1275	405	Fides	885	7.5	-	13.5	7893	1900	Shawmut	628	0.7	-	58.1
1843	510	RI Group	1843	12.5	0.5	78.4	4512	175	Shirley				
455	165	Stevens Ranch	415	0.0	1.4	38.1	2542	173	Shirley Holdings	158	-1.5	-	16.1
1188	566	Trinity	1633	33.8	1.5	47.3	6849	455	TRACER Network	790	0.0	-	27.8
2326	300	Hughes River	371	4.0	5.1	17.3	6177	49	Victory Corp	23	0.0	-	

US		1742	147	121	Euro Liturgy	125	0
00	172		173	80	First Choice HI	159	-2
-45	29	2415	478	235	First Liturgy	334	0

[illegible]

Price	Cap	Reg Yld	Cash	52 week High	Low	Stock	Price
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09	0.31	6.76	3493	24	17	Libertaria	10	0.0	4.2	7.0	3971	385	103	Photo-Id	160	0.0	0.8	11.3	6288	Hardisk	369.0	-1.8
20	0.35	6.75	3490	206	206	Low & Barrer	342	-4.6	5.0	16.2	1312.5	55	342	-10.5	2.0	40.7	6312	ICF Computers	2.8	0.9		
23	0.34	6.75	3490	30	11	Lower RH	11	-0.3	4.8	4.0	-780	257	30	4.0	2.0	10.9	6310	Imp-Intel	241.0	19.0		
31	0.40	6.57	3489	66	66	My Holdings	92	-1.0	3.8	11.9	2526	602	303	Quality Share	406	2.5	12.2	18.6	James H Sawada	402.0	0.0	
38	0.42	6.57	3489	194	194	Macintosh	121	0.5	4.3	16.7	2521	156	136	Quartica	461	0.0	23.8	6769	JIVE Telecom	62.5	0.0	
40	0.42	6.57	3489											141	0.5					215.0	-20.5	

209.51	0.00	2.77	34.3	102.28	103.47	T ₂₇ 10% 03	106.
175.99	0.00	2.70	34.0	104.84	100.99	T ₂₄ 11.5% 04	100.
				97.40	104.05	From 2.5% 104	97.

43	0.52	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	
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51.75	0.34	5.80	3032	III B0	432.42	Tyr 7.5% G1	180
80.81	0.75	4.33	1906			Tyr 11.75% G2	

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00:00	0.04	7.42	321	106.25	42.37	Try 6.25% 10	105
00:28	0.07	7.37	2080	101.51	116.16	Com 9% 11	179
00:56	0.11	7.34	2645	107.17	116.88	Tx 8% 12	120

09	0.28	5.54	305	333	222	Payco Inc	28	-3.1	3,389
09	0.38	5.76	307	344	178	Powertech Pkcs	41	-7.5	2,768
09	0.50	5.76	307	89	30	Procter Inc	29	-1.0	
09	1.22	5.92	321	463	238	Quanta Micro	20	-2.5	66,497
09	0.99	6.42	389	647	735	Sci Plasm	42	-2.5	
09	0.99	6.42	389	849	450	Sideline	78	+3.0	

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Telecoms reverse drags down Footsie

Lines were breaking up as the great telecoms scramble came to an embarrassing halt. As Henderson Crosthwaite suggested, the mobile phone boom was due for a "reality check" and most of the mobile groups lost their exuberance. Orange plunged 36.5p to 670p, a two-day fall of 68p. Although the main Henderson target, it was also hit by stories of a big share placing. Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong group, has almost 50 per cent of the capital and, in view of the downturn in the former colony, feel the temptation to unload at least some of its stake.

Goldman Sachs, according to the rumour mill, has been called in to organise the sale. If it has, it is keeping a low profile.

Orange shares have soared from 205p in the past year, as telecoms have become the darlings of the stock market. It would be surprising if Hutchison has not at least considered cutting its stake.

After all, in March British Aerospace, like Hutchison a founding shareholder, was happy to cut its stake from more than 21 per cent to just 5 per cent. And Orange

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

shares were then below 500p. Chris Godsmark at Henderson points out that the mobile phones price war is intensifying and margins are under pressure. "Subscriber acquisition costs remain too high and are unsustainable," he says. He also frets about more regulatory interference.

BT, down 1.5p to 803.5p, and Cable & Wireless Communications, off 12.5 at 636p, remain the Godsmark favourites. Vodafone, 38p lower at 778p, looks fully valued, and on Orange he says: "We find it

increasingly difficult to come to terms with Orange's valuation."

But Simon Champion at Charterhouse Tilney was more positive: he rated both Orange and Vodafone as buys.

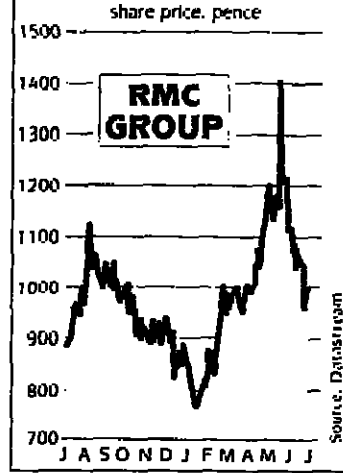
The rest of the stock market was unable to retain its winning streak. The decision to leave interest rates unchanged caught it in two minds: first relief, and then the nagging suspicion that any increase had only been postponed and would hit next time round. At one time Footsie was up by 34.2 points; it closed off 39.9 at 5,969.7 after suffering a 61.5-point fall in mid-afternoon.

The mid cap index achieved an 11.3 gain to 5,633.3 but once again the small caps index was in the dumps with a 3.7 decline to 2,586.8.

Sill, Merrill Lynch's gamble on the housebuilders with its Wednesday buy advice paid off. Barrat Developments put on another 10p to 264.5p and Bellway 7.5p to 312.5p.

Great Universal Stores was the latest retailer to be hit by a profit downgrade. Dresdner Bank told Benson took an axe - well, a penknife at least - to its estimates, cutting from £580m to £535m.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



J Sainsbury was also under pressure. Somerfield's encouraging figures were, some felt, won largely at Sainsbury's expense and the supermarket chain was also rocked by research figures showing it lost ground last month. The group will have the opportunity to rebut talk of a declining market share when it meets shareholders today. The shares were not, how-

ever, prepared to wait, falling 18.5p to 530p. Asda firmed 1.5p to 205.25p and Somerfield put on 33p to 426p, a peak. Tesco, ruffled by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell caution, shaded in its new slimline form to 193p and Safeway lost 12.5p to 282.5p.

Burmah Castrol fell 20p to 1,125p. The group is expected to move out of the oil sector soon to become a constituent of the Footsie chemical segment.

RMC, after Wednesday's maverick trade, was the top Footsie performer as the nonsense of a spaghetti-fingered input was ironed out. The shares recovered 40p to 1,900p.

Barclays stood out among the banks. That old excuse of a badly handled buy order was put forward. The shares, probably due more to hopes about next month's interim figures, rose 53p to 1,788p.

Debenhams, the department store chain, continued to pull out of its long downward spin. With Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley offering support, the shares rose 20.5p to 330p; they were 301.5p recently. MS said the market had underestimated the group's quality.

A bid for greeting cards group Creative Publishing lifted the shares 57.5p to 227p. The bid, from the American Hallmark operation, takes out CP just nine months after it was split from Fine Art Developments.

Insurer Willis Corroon put on 12p to 177p as takeover stories went the rounds again, and talk of a link-up buoyed ED & F Man, the commodities group, up 24.5p to 368p.

Airflow Streamline, the engine manufacturer, was the top Footsie performer after a three-year supply agreement. Hotelier Millennium & Copthorne softened 10p to 503.5p with talk of a cash-raising for acquisitions.

Brown & Jackson, the Pound-stretcher chain, hardened 10p to 64.5p following a £2m acquisition and a warning the market was underestimating its results with a £4.9m forecast. Era, another rebrand retailer, rose 0.75p to 5.25p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 931.4 million
SEAQ TRADES: 65,937
GILTS: n/a

BENSON CRISPS was unchanged at 38.5p after a 32 per cent interim profits advance to £811,000. Around £3m, up from £2.6m, is likely for the 12 months.

Knox D'Arcy, an investment and management group which has a 17 per cent stake, has not proceeded with an indicated 40p per share bid made earlier this year. It was instrumental in rescuing Bensons three years ago at 16p.

TOUCHSTONE, the accountancy software group placed at 105p on Wednesday, enjoyed another heady run, gaining 16p to 144.5p.

SPARGO CONSULTING, the computer group being taken over by a US operation, jumped 40p to 50p. The bid is in Nasdaq-traded shares of the bidder.

Indicated bid price was 324p with BT Alex Brown offering a switch into cash based on the bidder's shares.

Coca-Cola group to fizz up the market

COCA-COLA BEVERAGES looks guaranteed a good reception when shares in the bottling group start trading on Monday. Quite apart from the attractions of riding on the coat tails of the world-famous soft drink, the shares will also go straight into the FTSE 250 index, prompting a rush of demand from fund managers. But only a fifth of the shares in the group, which is being spun off from the Australian bottling outfit, Coca-Cola Amatil, are being placed. So expect them to rise above the 125p-160p range in which they are being priced.

Does CCB deserve that valuation? The company is effectively a play on consumers in Central and Eastern Europe drinking more of the black sticky stuff as their economic welfare improves. Consumption varies wildly across CCB's region. While the average Austrian drinks almost 200 cans of the stuff a year, the Ukrainians only manage a pathetic 18.

CCB expects to change this by spending on distribution. It has already built the bottling plants. Now it plans to increase the number of fridges and cooling vending machines in its region to 500,000 - a 70 per cent increase - in the next two years.

However, there is no guarantee that the drink will catch on. The Italians have stubbornly stuck to water and coffee. People in cooler climates may also drink less Coca-Cola.

Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, forecasts annual revenue growth of about 9 per cent. Profits will grow at a similar rate, but due to huge depreciation charges they will start from a very low base of just £22.8m this year. That leaves CCB, which is likely to be worth at least £1.7bn, looking fully valued. For a short-term ride, get on board. But for a longer-term play, wait for CCB to lose some of its fizz.

Why Cox takes risks for Names

BUYING OUT Lloyd's of London Names is an expensive business, as Cox Insurance showed yesterday when it asked shareholders for £65m for precisely that purpose. So how do shareholders decide whether to support this sort of deal?

Cox is an integrated Lloyd's vehicle - a quoted company whose purpose is to buy Names out of the market. It does this by quoting a price for their capacity - the rights they

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

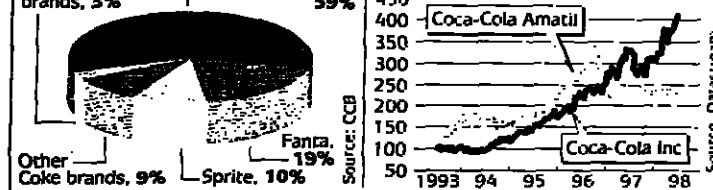
COCA-COLA BEVERAGES: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.3bn-1.7bn, share price: 125p-160p

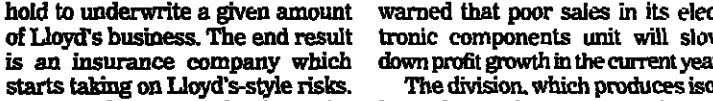
Trading record	1997*	1998**	1999**
Turnover (£m)	1,203.00	1,289.00	1,468.00
Pre-tax profits (£m)	1.90	25.30	29.00
Earnings per share (p)	-0.41	1.28	1.36
Dividends per share (p)	0.00	0.00	0.00

* Pre-former
** Merrill Lynch forecasts

COCA-COLA AROUND THE WORLD



Share price rebased to 100, July 1993



Source: Datastream

The transport group Arriva, formerly called COWI, has confirmed it is in talks to buy the Dutch group VSN-North, which operates bus services in the North of the Netherlands.

VSN-North has an annualised turnover of more than £100m, runs some 750 buses and employs around 3,500 people. If negotiations are successful, the consideration will be funded from group resources. Arriva said.

Bloomsbury's catch

BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING has said it has secured the English language publishing rights, excluding North America, for the next three books by Joanna Rowling about the children's character Harry Potter. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets has gone straight to the top of the adult hardback top 10 list.

Out-selling Jeffrey Archer and John Grisham, Bloomsbury shares jumped 8p to close at 104.5p.

Golden acquisition

GOLDEN VALE is set to acquire the Irish Rye Valley Foods for up to £129.4m, the company said yesterday. Golden Vale will initially pay £126.5m cash for Rye Valley, which manufactures and markets customer-label prepared meals for the British, Irish and Continental markets. A further £12.9m will be payable on a deferred basis if certain profit targets are met.

After yesterday's profit downgrades and price collapse, the stocks are trading on a forward multiple of 17 times 1998 earnings. With growth in the core business expected to continue in the coming years, they are certainly worth holding.

This unit has been almost untouched by sterling's rise as most of its plants are abroad, while the wide spread of its customer base has cushioned the impact of the Far Eastern turmoil.

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CRITCHLEY GROUP is a perfect example of the sorry state UK manufacturers are in. The maker of electrical accessories yesterday

hold to underwrite a given amount of Lloyd's business. The end result is an insurance company which starts taking on Lloyd's-style risks.

Cox and about 16 other ILVs aim to buy names out until they control 100 per cent of their target syndicates. At first, they were able to offer only 3p or 4p for every £1 of capacity. Now Names have caught on to the true value of their holdings, the ILVs are having to offer up to 25p per £1.

The ILVs also need to deposit funds at Lloyd's to back the risks they underwrite. So buying out £162.5m of capacity could cost as much as £120m. Many ILVs are only half way towards achieving their targets and need capital urgently.

If Cox had full control of its syndicates, it would have after-tax earnings of £43.5m this year - comfortably justifying the rights issue price of 400p. The risk, however, is that the price of buying out Names rises even further and that Cox's timetable of taking full control by 2001 starts slipping. But ILVs are ideal for investors who want exposure to Lloyd's without putting all their possessions on the line. Cox shares, which rose 11p to 460p yesterday, are a good bet.

Double whammy hurts Critchley

CRITCHLEY GROUP is a perfect example of the sorry state UK manufacturers are in. The maker of electrical accessories yesterday

IN BRIEF

End of EU duty-free may cost BAA £30m

THE ABOLITION of duty-free within the European Union next year will hit BAA's annual profits by £30-35m, its chief executive, Sir John Egan, told shareholders yesterday. The figure cited by Sir John was slightly lower than the forecast made in May by BAA's finance director, who said that BAA would take a negative impact of £35-£40m on its annual pre-tax profit due to the end of EU duty-free sales.

£42m luxury return

WALKER GREENBANK, the furnishing fabrics to luxury carpets group, said it would return £42m to shareholders after the sale of its wallcoverings operations to GenCorp of the US. Walker Greenbank yesterday said contracts have been exchanged over the proposed disposal of its wallcoverings businesses Mursapac and Brymore to a wholly owned unit of GenCorp for £70m cash.

Arriva goes Dutch

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Mr Redwood and the carpetbaggers

TORY FRIENDS of John Redwood, the MP for Wokingham and shadow trade and industry spokesman, have come rushing to his defence in the mini-row over his directorship of Murray Financial, the carpetbagging company which listed on AIM last month.

Things erupted two weeks ago. Terry Pollard, Labour MP for St Albans, tabled an early-day motion in his capacity as leader of the "Save Our Building Societies" campaign. The EDM expressed its concern that Mr Redwood had entered into a relationship with Murray Financial, a company that seeks "to limit choice within the financial services market by taking over building societies ... and calls upon the Right Honourable Member to consider his position".

Yesterday John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Ruislip and Northwood, led four colleagues in tabling an amendment which would replace almost all of the original with the following:

"The House 'notes that Murray Financial only intends to proceed with the agreement of building societies, that it is not in the business of proceeding with any hostile bids, that building societies are regulated by the Treasury, not the Department of Trade and Industry, and that the Right Honourable Member for Wokingham has never used his position in Parliament to urge a change of policies in building societies that would be helpful to companies like Murray Financial'".

All of which would suggest that Mr Redwood is less robotic and altogether a more sensitive creature than you might have thought.

TWO OF the late Robert Maxwell's daughters are prospering in California, thanks to the Internet. Twins Christine and Isabel sold their firm The McKinley Group to Excite two years ago in exchange for shares, which have since soared in value from single-figure millions to over £50m.

Meanwhile their brothers Kevin and Ian Maxwell are selling firms to Russia.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

ONE OF Tony Blair's favourite think tanks is looking for a new director to replace Gerald Holtham, who has decided to return to the city to make money. The Institute for Public Policy Research will start interviewing for the top job in August, so get your CV in now.

Mr Holtham is moving to Norwich Union Investment Management as head of strategy. He says NU have opened a fund management office in the City for the first time to "raise their game" and then attract outside funds to manage, as well as taking care of NU's existing £50m-odd in-house funds. "This means I'm moving offices from Covent Garden to Fenchurch Street. The offices won't be as pleasant but there will be a whole lot more money around," says Mr Holtham.

The IPPR hired him from Lehman Brothers where he was chief economist in 1994 to sharpen up the think tank's image, according to insiders, and to make it appear more businesslike and less like a bunch of overpaid leftie slackers.

Mr Holtham, who used to give advice to the late John Smith, says he joined the IPPR when it became obvious Labour were going to win the last election. The IPPR has provided solid ideas, such as the "University for Industry" and competition policy, he says, in stark contrast to more airy-fairy stuff from other quarters such as "Cool Britannia".

BRAD LEEK is leaving UBS in London after nine years with the bank to join Bankers Trust in New York as managing director and global head of foreign exchange sales.

Mr Leek has a degree from the University of Sussex and an MBA from the London Management Centre. He will report to Ivan Rittossa, managing director and global head of foreign exchange, who moved from Singapore to London in May.

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COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Benson Crisps (I)	12,500,000	0.81m (0.61m)	1.24p (1p)	0.50p (0.37p)	01/08	20/07/98
Edinburgh (I)	1,000,000	1,030m (1.22m)	1.07p (1.22p)	1.07p (1.22p)	01/08	20/07/98
Call Thompson (I)	6,200,000	2,730m (2,060m)	6.24p (4.5p)	1.50p (1.25p)	05/08	20/07/98
Murray Healthcare (I)	1,400,000	-0.285m (0.083m)	-12.2p (2.8p)	n/a	-	-
New London Capital (I)	8,500,000	8,500,000	8.50p (8p)	6.00p (5.5p)	25/09	24/08/98
William Ramsden (I)	15,000,000	1,500,000	8.50p (8.5p)	2.50p (2.5p)	01/08	17/08/98
Somerfield (I)	3,700,000	-11.1m (10.5m)	-3.9p (2.9p)	11.4p (10.3p)	02/08	27/07/98

(I) - Final (II) - Interim * EPS is pre-exceptional * Dividend to be paid as a FID

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6130			0.3392
Australia	2.6604	2.6522	1.8333	1.6336	1.6336	1.6336	0.8930
Austria	21.014	20.976	20.900	12.888	12.888	12.888	7.0431
Belgium	61.586	61.381	59.915	37.690	37.565	30.641	0.8070
Canada	1.382	1.4022	1.383	6.3775	6.3699	6.3010	0.8421
Denmark	1.5088	1.5045	1.4556	1.081	1.081	1.081	3.0431
ECU	9.0793	9.0469	8.9889	6.1313	6.1194	6.0886	3.3521
Finland	10.001	9.996	9.991	1.291	1.291	1.291	0.2604
France	2.9336	2.9336	3.0535	307.10	310.47	166.94	1.6694

SPORT

Tour de France 1998: Germany's wunderkind has won the battle with his waistline in time for tomorrow's start

Ullrich pumped and ready for action

He may have over-indulged after his 1997 victory, but 'The Tourminator' is back and ready to defend his title. By Robin Nicholl

TOUR DE FRANCE success did not go to Jan Ullrich's head. It went to his waistline. Six months after Germany found a new sporting wunderkind he developed a double chin and his belt ran out of notches.

Ullrich, who had rocked the Tour in his 1996 debut at the age of 22 by finishing second, and amazed it by winning last year, put on 13 kilos (29lb) in post-season enjoyment. The German media who had dubbed him 'The Tourminator' were worried. Their chubby hero was talking slimming rather than winning. That was in April. Now the battle of the bulge has been won and Ullrich appears confident and ready to roll.

"I am satisfied with my shape. It is getting better each day. I hope to race the Tour as strongly as I did last year," was the bad news for his rivals in the 3,850km race which begins in Dublin tomorrow.

"My goal is to reach Paris in the yellow jersey, and that is realistic, considering the strong team I have at my disposal."

"My weight is all right now. I will not have one kilogram more than at the same time last year. All the talk about my weight and shape has not been stressful because those around me ensured that I was not exposed to my critics."

January may seem a long time ago, but when Ullrich weighed in at a training camp in the Canary Islands the scales sagged to 83 kilos. Then he caught flu, and the signals from the early races set off more

alarms. He quit his first race after 35km of the first day, lost almost an hour to the contenders over five days of another race, was a non-starter in the opening Milan to San Remo Classic, and lost more than 12 minutes in yet another engagement.

"I am not letting it get me down. Riders gain weight in the winter," said Ullrich, but May arrived with him still six kilos above his 73 kilos for the start of the 1997 Tour.

"We have learned a lesson. Next winter we will be more vigilant," said Rudy Pevenage, the assistant team chief of the Deutsche Telekom squad, in a head-shaking review of Ullrich's two-month spree of holidaying and partying with his girlfriend Gaby.

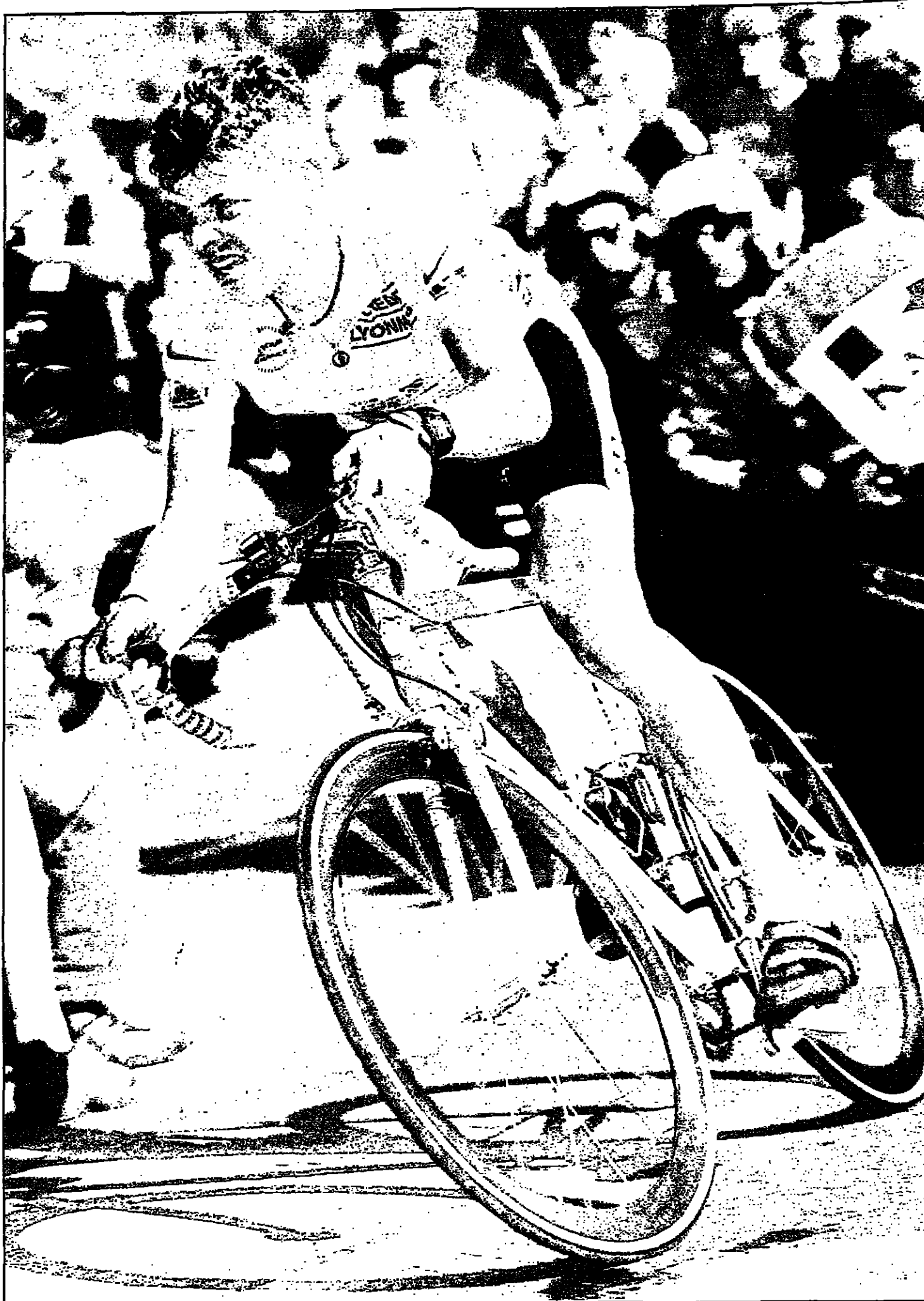
"I have never trained so hard and with so much pressure," Ullrich said. His name started to appear in the top half of the results and he wound up his Tour training with fourth overall in the French Route de Sud.

Ullrich came from a frugal background to sample the fruits of success. One of three brothers brought up alone by their mother, Marianne, who laboured on an East German farm, he was 16 in 1989 when the Berlin Wall was brought down.

It opened a new world to the red-headed teenager from Rostock, who was already learning the disciplines of a sporting life from the authoritarian trainer Peter Becker. "He is like a father to me. I can talk with him about things I would not share with anyone else," said Ullrich, who was three when his real father left the family.



Ullrich: Weight problem



Jan Ullrich, of Germany, en route to his impressive 1997 Tour de France victory

Phil O'Connor

By 1993, Becker had shaped a world amateur road-race champion, and, a year later, Ullrich won a bronze medal in the world time-trial championship.

Telekom's Belgian manager, Walter Godefroot, was quick to get his signature on a contract, but was still

unaware of exactly how much talent he had in Ullrich.

"In the 1996 Tour de France, I intended that he would pull out after getting the feel of the race," Godefroot said. "But he surprised me day after day. After some phenomenal work for Bjarne Riis [the Danish

winner that year], he won the St. Emilion time trial. Then in the 1997 stage into Andorra he showed that he had the qualities of a big champion."

He arrived first, and alone, at the Arcalis ski station. There was still 12 days to go to the Paris finale where

Ullrich would finish with nine minutes and nine seconds to spare over the Frenchman Richard Virenque, the biggest winning advantage for 13 years. Ullrich was then only 23. At that age Miguel Indurain was still four years away from the first of his five Tour triumphs.

Briton playing down his chances

By Robin Nicholl
in Dublin

THE STREETS in the centre of Dublin will become a racetrack tomorrow to host what Chris Boardman calls "the world prologue championship". The official title is the prologue time-trial of the Tour de France, where in 1994 Boardman made a winning debut to become the first Briton to hold the yellow jersey for more than a day. Twice he has won the prologue title, but he is not feeling too champion about the first 5.6 kilometres of the 3,850km on the road to Paris.

"Before the start in Rouen last year I said that if all went well I should win or at least be placed," Boardman said yesterday. "Now I will probably be in the first five and then I might win. That is how much things have changed. I am not being negative, just realistic. I am not in the best shape. You don't have the form to win when you would like it, but I have responsibilities to the team. It is what I am paid for."

Last year he beat Jan Ullrich, the eventual Tour winner, in the prologue by two seconds, three years after setting a Tour record with a 55.152kph ride in the Lille prologue.

After consulting a specialist on Monday, he said: "I am pursuing health problems." He declined to elaborate, but added: "My body is fragile. My ability to recover has gone downhill rapidly." Yet last month he won prologues in pre-Tour build-up races, then withdrew from his final race because of gastric trouble.

Short it may be, but the Tour prologue is a tense affair left to the speed specialists such as Boardman, Germany's Ullrich, Abraham Olano of Spain, and Alex Zülle of Switzerland.

Zülle said yesterday that he felt despite Ullrich's overall strength, he would not necessarily enjoy the Tour domination enjoyed by Miguel Indurain. "This is not a hereditary monarchy where one king dies and the man nominated as his heir apparent takes over by right - the Tour de France is won by the best all-rounder and last year Ullrich was head and shoulders above everybody else," he said.

"It is more like a dictatorship which is prone to coups and last year's winner is more than likely to be attacked from all sides to see if he has weakened."

Yet a confident Ullrich could win it, while Olano and Zülle have something to prove - Olano that he has rediscovered the form that was sapped last year by infected tonsils, and Zülle that he can be a contender like in 1995, when he finished second overall.

Even as "depressed" as he admits to being, Boardman should not be discounted. Averaging 50kph-plus over short distances is, after all, his speciality. However, the other 3,844.4km is something else.

Coulthard wants to keep attacking

IF FATE has really just been teasing David Coulthard then he will win Sunday's British Grand Prix and regenerate an authentic challenge for the Formula One World Championship.

Even the Scotsman's admirable self-control and dignity have been strained by a sequence of misfortunes that have resulted in his gaining a mere one point from three races. He now languishes third in the title standings, 20 points behind his McLaren-Mercedes team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, and 14 down on Ferrari's Michael Schumacher.

Coulthard has already conceded he cannot afford to lose further ground at Silverstone, which marks the start of the second half of the season. It is a critical period, an appropriate time to remind his team they owe him for services rendered lest they should be thinking about concentrating their efforts on Hakkinen.

Schumacher's victory in France, a week last Sunday, owed much to the selfless support of his team-mate, Eddie Irvine, who was suitably acclaimed for his contribution.

Coulthard is understandably eager to play down Irvine's

McLaren's joint No 1 is hoping the British Grand Prix will bring a change of luck. By Derick Allsop

role and discourage such deployment of partners. He has joint No 1 status with Hakkinen at McLaren but considers himself in credit after moving over for the Finn in the final race of last year and the opening round this season.

"I believe too much is made of this master plan at Ferrari," he said. "If you look at it, Eddie has moved over for Michael in one race, at Suzuka, last year. I have actually given up track position twice to Mika."

"A lot of credit has been given to Eddie but the fact is that Eddie is just not as quick as Michael. Not even Eddie believes he is as quick as Michael. I have shown my loyalty to the team on the two occasions I have been asked, and now it's for the team to just keep doing what they're doing, which is allowing us to go out there and race."

"The championship should be won because you have beaten everyone. It's a recent

thing, this putting all your eggs in one basket. Why?"

McLaren have traditionally shared the contents of their basket between their drivers and pride themselves in their technical capacity to do so.

Coulthard said: "The team is capable of supplying equal machinery so as I see it team orders is not an issue for us. If I qualify in front and I'm leading at the first corner, what more can anyone expect of me but to go for the win?"

"The only way to win the championship is to attack and McLaren know this. The moment you try to defend you go on the back foot and I don't believe the team will do that."

"The policy of attacking has served McLaren well so far. If the second half of the season goes like the first, Mika will win the championship and we will win the constructors' championship, so there is no need for anyone to do any covering up."

The problem for Coulthard



David Coulthard: 'I can pull the lead back' Allsop

with that scenario is he would miss out on the drivers' title and by next season the balance of power might have shifted away from McLaren.

"Of course it is going to be difficult for me," he said. "All I can do is just get on with my job. I've been a bit unlucky in the first half of the season. If an engine fails or you have some other technical problem there's nothing you can do about it, but that happens in motor racing and you have to learn to accept it."

"It would be optimistic to expect Mika and Michael to pick up only one point from the next three races, but things can change and there are eight races to go. Just as Mika has opened up a lead of 20 points over me in the first half of the season, so I can pull it back in the second half."

"I'm not going to adopt the attitude it's an uphill struggle and go all negative. I am going to try to win the British Grand Prix and take it from there."

Hill and Herbert still hungry for success

THE TWO current British drivers who have won their home Grand Prix are resigned to a distant view of the main event this time yet consider the race no less significant to their cause, writes Derick Allsop.

Success is relative and for Damon Hill, the former world champion, triumphant at Silverstone in 1994, a first point at the wheel of the Jordan on Sunday would be a significant and cherished achievement.

Johnny Herbert, who took over at the top of the British podium in 1995, is anxious to add to the solitary point he registered on the opening day of the season in order to sustain his hope he can yet earn the chance of competing for the championship.

Hill, who broke his duck with Arrows at Silverstone last year, has endured another frustrating season at Jordan, but he has recovered in the duel with his first opponent, team-mate Ralf Schumacher, and maintains that at the age of 27, he can still be a force in Formula One.

"I want to win and I don't have many more years left in racing when you consider Ralf who's just 23," he said. "So I'm impatient to make progress with Jordan."

"I'm confident I can be competitive. I don't think there are

any signs yet that I'm less competitive than someone around here who's a lot younger, a very fast driver and reputedly as talented as his brother."

"So I putting myself against the toughest challengers that I can find and still feel I can hold my own and be competitive."

Hill seems unable to escape the spectre of family Schumacher. Michael again directed his disdain at the Englishman after last month's Canadian Grand Prix, accusing him of dangerous driving.

"Unfortunately I have a reactive streak in me and so I have to check myself," Hill said. "I have spent many seasons holding my tongue about Michael, and the innuendoes and comments still keep coming."

"If he continues like that I will lob some back his way but I'd regret it if it should get to that. I want people to know I have a sense of humour about it. Honestly."

"It doesn't really concern me. I think it's laughable, most of it, utterly laughable. Since when has he been interested in the regulations? It is a joke, coming from him."

"I don't know what it's about with him and me, but if he can crack a smile about it, then

we're going to be fine and I'll be happy with that."

"Ralf is not like Michael in that regard. I think he feels a bit awkward about it all. My relationship with Ralf is good. He's a very quiet boy and doesn't really involve himself with me that much."

Herbert, 34, has not given up on his championship dream and cannot understand why leading teams continue to overlook him. Several drivers have been muted as targets for Williams, including the other Sauber driver, Jean Alesi, but not Herbert.

"I don't see why anyone should dismiss me," Herbert said. "Especially after this season. Jean's got a reputation for being quick but overall I've been quicker."

"I'm very happy at Sauber and I wouldn't want to leave unless it was to join one of the top teams. But I am hungry for the challenge of going for the championship. I'm not here just to make up the numbers. I would have got out years ago rather than do that."

"I know I still have it in me to be world champion. I'm still fit enough and young enough. Both Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill were older than I am when they won the championship."

Westwood has good vibrations

GOLF

By ANDY FARRELL
at Loch Lomond

LEE WESTWOOD went fishing yesterday safe in the knowledge that his four-under-par total, later beaten by a shot when veteran Scot Ross Drummond birdied the last for a 66, would guarantee him a late tee-time for today's third round of the Standard Life World Invitational.

As opposed to his golf - Westwood plays off plus-six when he takes on his dad - the 25-year-old's fishing handicap is 36 and Andrew Coltart, his future brother-in-law, ended the afternoon two trout up. Fishing of another kind, in much murkier waters, was going on in the press interview room.

Tom Lehman, the defending champion whose bogey-free round of 68 brought him back to one under, is articulate, perceptive and has a sense of humour which is a dangerous combination when it comes to talking about Colin Montgomerie. It all started with a reference to the laid-back style of Westwood.

The youngster missed chances left, right and centre but did not drop a shot in a second successive 69. "He just plays golf, has a smile on his face and seems to be pretty easy going," Lehman said. "He would fit pretty well into California."

Is it essential to have that demeanour to get on in America? Lehman was asked. "Not necessarily. The one thing you do need is good PR," he replied. "I think we all know who we're talking about."

"It's unfortunate that once you get labelled a certain way, it's tough to shake it. So Lee has good vibes going and Monty has to get over this negative perception. It's unfair because the average golfing public in America doesn't know him. Off the course he is fantastic to be around, a gentleman. On the course he's just a tough competitor and the players know and respect that. I've seen



Sandy Lyle tries to avoid a bunker on his way to the green as he plays out of trouble on the seventh at Loch Lomond yesterday

Paul Severn/Allsport

Monty do things on the course which make people raise their eyebrows but there's no need for someone to get heckled like that. If he were American they would love him, like John McEnroe.

"Should Colin change? No. What makes him a great player is his fiery competitiveness. You take that away from him

and he's not Colin Montgomerie any more."

Monty found it easy to agree. "He's right. I shouldn't change anything. I've been quite successful. If I wasn't, I would change something."

But it was impossible to get him to bite on whether he needed better PR and what he could do about it.

"Most definitely I get a hard time, I'm not going to deny that. It's undeniable. Obviously, that's his opinion. Possibly, he's right. Possibly he's wrong." That was the shortened version and the way he circumnavigated the loch suggests it is a sensitive issue.

Having felt like he had been led up Galloway's Hill, the name

of the 13th here, Montgomerie actually got burned at the 14th. A short par-four, Monty went for the green and found the Arn Burn. A six left him at one over after a 71.

At the same hole, Westwood ignored the advice of his caddy, Mick Doran, to lay up and went for the green. He missed, but started dry, and then

chipped to 15 feet. "See, you could have been there from the fairway," said Doran. Riled, Westwood holed the putt and saluted his caddy with a gesture which suggested a two rather than a three. "My aggression is the best part of my game so not to use it is to lose my advantage," Westwood said.

LOCH LOMOND WORLD INVITATIONAL (GB or Ire unless stated)
Leading scores: 137 R Drummond 70 67; 138 L Westwood 69 69; S Allan (Aus) 70 68; 139 D Edmund (Swe) 70 69; 140 P Broadhurst 69 71; A Coltart 71 69; 141 Woodman 67 73; G Orr 68 72; 141 J Spence 70 71; P McGinley 72 69; S Appleby (Aus) 73 68; E Romero (Arg) 71 70; 142 I Garbutt 73 69; S Garcia (Esp) 71 71; C Dennis (US) 74 68; A Celja (Ger) 71 71; C Rocca (It) 69 74; P Baker 73 69. Selected scores: 143 C Montgomerie 72 71; J-M Olazabal (Esp) 72 71; 145 T Bjorn (Den) 73 72; Missed cuts: 148 M Kuchar (US) 73 76; 153 M Brooks (US) 79 74.

Golding holds 60s advantage

SAILING

By STUART ALEXANDER

THE EARLY advantage in the battle of the two Open 60s racing in the Atlantic Alone from Falmouth to Charleston was still with Britain's Mike Golding in Group 4 last night despite some early problems with sail and gear damage.

As his Italian rival Giovanni Soldini had taken Fila on a more southerly route, Golding said: "I determined to stay north and look for opportunities to head south after passing over the top of the high. Both options seem reasonable and perhaps more could be gained from staying with Fila and trialling our yachts boat for boat, but this is a race and it would be against my instincts to go a long way round."

Golding said that only two days into the race he had ripped a genacker and then, when trying to repair it, the breeze had picked up and some turning blocks controlling the mainsail ripped off. "It was a good hour before I was finally up to speed again," he said.

Golding, who is using the race to bed down his new GBP1m yacht added: "There was, and is, some trepidation sailing alone in such a wild boat, and that won't go away until I've weathered my first storm."

It was, he said, unexpected to see Soldini take the southerly route. "To try to jog it so early in the race was a real surprise," he said. "He is undoubtedly one of the best from the last race and he may be preserving himself and his boat for the main event."

High rollers on Super highway to a bigger game

THREE WEEKENDS of matches in diverse locations around Britain rank as one of Super League's brighter ideas. It is a symptom of the tensions within the sport, however, that there are otherwise well-intentioned people whose darker instincts are to hope that they fail spectacularly.

The programme of games "on the road" - which starts with tonight's meeting between Leeds and Salford at Gateshead - is a piece of ingenuity springing out of a three-week gap in the season, originally inserted to accommodate a triangular Test series in Australia.

Plan B was that home internationals and Super League fixtures should be played as double-headers throughout the country. However, when Super League made it clear that it would not release players, that left Plan C: six matches, all with League points at stake, staged from Edinburgh to

Matches beyond traditional borders are the new ploy designed to promote a divided sport. By Dave Hadfield

Northampton and South Wales.

However conscious they are of the importance to the game as a whole of this project going well, there are bound to be some at the Rugby Football League who say, under their breath: "OK, you're so damn clever. Let's see how you perform."

The League's offer to help through its ticket sales operation for the games was refused and there have been a number of bad-tempered faxes flying between the two organisations. The RFL's officials would not even be at tonight's game had they not been invited by Gateshead Council, with whom they were working to develop the game in the North-east before Super League was ever a gleam in Rupert Murdoch's eye.

So there will be some *schadenfreude* if the whole business falls flat on its face. Games organised in Gateshead by the RFL have attracted an average attendance of more than 7,000; Super League says it will be happy with 5,000, but anything much less will be embarrassing.

Given the abrasive relationship between the RFL and Super League, some pleasure in their discomfort would be understandable. However, it needs to be submerged in the broader interests of the game.

Super League, for good or ill, controls the game's shop window. They cannot be made to look foolish on this adventure without the whole game suffering.



Gateshead, tonight's venue, stages South Africa and Australia in 1995

Varley

Nor is there any reason why, marketed and presented properly, this programme of games should lack appeal to the good citizens of Gateshead, Cardiff or wherever.

Any objection to meaningless exhibition games has been overcome by putting Super League points at stake and the general tone of the season so far is that there have been far more entertaining, competitive games than non-events.

The product, as Super League insists on calling it, has been good. All that remains is persuading the broader public

to try it. Ticket sales have been sluggish at most Super League clubs, with many regular supporters already committed to holidays and others preferring television coverage to a round trip of several hundred miles.

That makes it a test bed for local support, raising the danger that if Gateshead, for instance, fails to respond, that will fatally undermine the case for a Super League franchise there next season. Gates at Swansea and Cardiff will be scrutinised intently for the same reason.

The fact remains that this

missionary work is something both the RFL and Super League should have been doing years ago. Clued-up clubs can do the sport any amount of good; Wigan, for instance, are using their trip to Swansea to play St Helens to call in on and promote their "twinned" team at Cheltenham.

That is not Super League business. It is rugby league - the sport's - business and a small example of the way that, whatever the personal animosities, the whole game can benefit from spreading its wings.

Gregory gives 18-year-olds first-team chance

SALFORD ARE giving two 18-year-olds their first-team debuts in tonight's match against Leeds at Gateshead, writes Dave Hadfield.

Andy Gregory has called up Stuart Litterer on the right wing and Simon Svabic as stand-off and goal-kicker for the first of

Super League's itinerant matches over the next three weekends.

"They are there on merit," Gregory said. "They have been playing well in the A team and they are the future of the club. I haven't been happy with certain players' performances and

I said I would give the kids a chance." Svabic, signed from Oldham last November, has particularly heavy responsibilities. "We are playing the second in the league, on live TV and he is taking the goal-kicks," said Gregory. "Apart from that, there is no pressure on him at all. I'm

happy that he will handle it." The Leeds coach, Graham Murray, has named Barrie McDermott in the line-up for the first time since taking charge. Darren Fleary moves back to second row and Andy Hay to the bench, with Adrian Morley and Marc Glanville still injured.

Maurice Lindsay, the managing director of Super League, has denied any interest in becoming chairman of the Rugby League, a post from which Sir Rodney Walker has indicated he will stand down later this season. Lindsay, ousted from the League by Walker last year, said

he had been approached "from within the game" to consider the chairmanship, but has rejected the approach. David Oxley, who was chief executive of the League before Lindsay, has been suggested as the type of elder statesman who could take over.

Lewis reveals defence venue

BOXING

LENNOX LEWIS stages the next defence of his World Boxing Council heavyweight title - against Zeljko Mavrovic on 26 September - at the unlikely venue of a native American reservation at Uncasville, Connecticut.

The match was fixed after a fee of more than \$850,000 was put up by the Mohican Sun Casino, trumping the money on offer from the Atlantic City gambling venues which periodically host boxing events.

A special 7,000-capacity pavilion is being built for Lewis's mandatory defence since the existing arena at Uncasville can hold only 1,500 spectators.

"It's the first time the Mohican Sun has staged a major fight," Lewis's promoter, Frank Maloney, said. "They are showing a lot of interest in Lennox and would like to make him a regular attraction there. That's why this new pavilion is being built. If everything is a success, they will be looking to increase its size for future fights."

Lewis will be returning to his training camp 9,000ft up at Big Bear, California, opting for the altitude headquarters instead of a base on the east coast of America.

Maloney added: "I think it's a hard fight, and we are taking it very seriously. Mavrovic is not a really big puncher but he is fast. I know Lennox is taking it seriously by going back to Big Bear; everyone thought he was going to train on the East Coast. When he goes to Big Bear you know that it is really taking a fight seriously."

Lewis will earn between \$2m-£3m against the £1m of the former unbeaten European heavyweight champion, who is based in Germany but trained by a Londoner, Darrick Smith.

Thompson hungry for Eubank

By MARK PEIRCE

CARL THOMPSON plans to vent a considerable amount of anger and frustration on Chris Eubank when the pair meet for their World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title rematch in Sheffield on 18 July.

Thompson, who says his promoters are "letting me down badly", was upset at having to attend a press conference close to the venue, with no Eubank in sight.

He said: "I'm in the middle of my most important training and I've been dragged all this way for this. Why couldn't they have had the press conference in Manchester? It's given me an edge, a hunger and an anger for this fight. But to be honest, I've now got a job to do and I'll get past Chris after another battle and then consider my future."

Herol Graham is lined up for a British title fight this autumn, six years after his last domestic championship fight. Graham, aged 39 in September, has been nominated by the Board of Control to challenge the super-middleweight champion Dean Francis, the European title holder, by 31 October.

Henry Wharton has also been handed a British title chance against the light-heavyweight holder Crawford Ashley. Wharton lost a World Boxing Council challenge against Reid 14 months ago. The cruiserweight Johnny Nelson has been ordered to defend his British title against Kelly Oliver.

Billy Scher will make the first defence of his European lightweight title against the French-based Portuguese Manuel Fernandes at York Hall, Bethnal Green, on 12 September.

The Feathery

1825 - The golfer's favourite ball, well, the only ball available in the year Standard Life came into being. Made of pieces of dry leather and you've guessed it, feathers.

Gutta Percha

1828 - By now this had become the choice of discerning golfers everywhere, in much the same way Standard Life was becoming the preferred choice among people who wanted a good return on their investment.

Hand Hammered Gutta

1876 - Full members had found that the chips made by repeatedly hitting enabled the ball to travel further. So Standard Life were also hand-hammered with 70% of their business coming from abroad.

Wound Rubber Ball

1900 - This was a big advance on the wooden ones. The new style of ball had a solid core something that Standard Life had been working on for years.

Modern Ball

1926 - Advances in materials and regularity in the construction of the ball meant that people could rely on consistent performance whatever the conditions. Now, who does that remind you of?

Leaders in our field since 1825

STANDARD LIFE

Sponsors of the Loch Lomond golf tournament 8-11 July 1998

Palmer's new image suited to victory

SWIMMING
BY JAMES PARRACK

ALL EYES were on Paul Palmer yesterday as he stood on the blocks for the 200 metre freestyle final. "There were a few wolf whistles, but no one looks stupid when they win," he said. And then he won.

Palmer was one of a number of internationalists to wear the latest in swimming technology, the body hugging Adidas Equipment Bodysuit. Covering the entire body with just head, hands and feet showing, it is more like a wetsuit than a swimsuit. But despite illness from altitude training in Arizona eight weeks ago, Palmer swam to within half a second of his British record. "I've had a torrid time over the last couple of months and to swim my fastest ever time in a trials is down to the suit," he said.

The Teflon-coated Lycra suit reduces drag in the water and by gripping the body, minimises muscle oscillation - body wobble to you and I - which delays fatigue.

This weekend's champi-



Charlotte Niblett powers through the water in the women's 200m butterfly in Sheffield yesterday, wearing the latest in swimming technology - Adidas's all-over bodysuit

onships are doubling as selection trials for the Commonwealth Games and it is encouraging that the first three finishers in each event were safely under the qualifying standard.

Second to Palmer was Gavin Meadows. Well under British

record pace for the first 100m, Meadows was overhauled only in the final 10m. This will only strengthen the 200m freestyle relay team, four times European champions, as they take on the world champions, Australia, in Kuala Lumpur.

In the 100m butterfly James Hickman missed his British record by 0.06sec as he dominated the race. Not yet fully rested, Hickman is confident he will break the record in September. However, there was a setback for Steve Parry, the European 200m bronze medalist, when the electronic timing failed and the manual back-up placed him fourth by 0.02sec. He cannot now be selected in the 100m event.

There was a surprise, too, for Karen Pickering in the women's 200m freestyle, as she finished a distant third to Claire Huddart. The City of Leeds swimmer won in 2:01.67, a personal best. Under the qualifying time. Pickering will be fully prepared by September. The youngest winner yesterday was the 16-year-old Samantha Nisbet in the 400m individual medley. The British record for this event was set by Sharron Davies in the Moscow Olympics in 1980. The help apparent is five seconds behind but closing fast. Yet the youngest member of the Commonwealth Games team is likely to be Nisbet's 14-year-old team-mate from Portsmouth, Holly Cox. These two competed for the national title yesterday and the race is on to break the oldest record in the book.

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION
2.20 Critical Air 2.50 Lady Eli 3.20 Sea Spouse 3.50 Bapford 4.20 Banneret 4.50 Pharaoh's Joy

GOING: Good. STALLS: 1st outside, remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best. Favourite: left-hand, over course. Course is in N of town on A449, Wolverhampton station 1m. DRESSING: 10.15; 10.30; 10.45; 11.00; 11.15; 11.30; 11.45; 12.00; 12.15; 12.30; 12.45; 1.00; 1.15; 1.30; 1.45; 2.00; 2.15; 2.30; 2.45; 3.00; 3.15; 3.30; 3.45; 4.00; 4.15; 4.30; 4.45; 5.00; 5.15; 5.30; 5.45; 6.00; 6.15; 6.30; 6.45; 7.00; 7.15; 7.30; 7.45; 8.00; 8.15; 8.30; 8.45; 9.00; 9.15; 9.30; 9.45; 10.00; 10.15; 10.30; 10.45; 11.00; 11.15; 11.30; 11.45; 12.00; 12.15; 12.30; 12.45; 1.00; 1.15; 1.30; 1.45; 2.00; 2.15; 2.30; 2.45; 3.00; 3.15; 3.30; 3.45; 4.00; 4.15; 4.30; 4.45; 5.00; 5.15; 5.30; 5.45; 6.00; 6.15; 6.30; 6.45; 7.00; 7.15; 7.30; 7.45; 8.00; 8.15; 8.30; 8.45; 9.00; 9.15; 9.30; 9.45; 10.00; 10.15; 10.30; 10.45; 11.00; 11.15; 11.30; 11.45; 12.00; 12.15; 12.30; 12.45; 1.00; 1.15; 1.30; 1.45; 2.00; 2.15; 2.30; 2.45; 3.00; 3.15; 3.30; 3.45; 4.00; 4.15; 4.30; 4.45; 5.00; 5.15; 5.30; 5.45; 6.00; 6.15; 6.30; 6.45; 7.00; 7.15; 7.30; 7.45; 8.00; 8.15; 8.30; 8.45; 9.00; 9.15; 9.30; 9.45; 10.00; 10.15; 10.30; 10.45; 11.00; 11.15; 11.30; 11.45; 12.00; 12.15; 12.30; 12.45; 1.00; 1.15; 1.30; 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Zidane can lead the new deconstructionists

THERE WAS a Frenchman, an Englishman, an Italian woman, and an Iranian woman... It sounds like it could be funny. Believe me, it wasn't. I was that night I spent on the floor of a public convenience in Nevers in the summer of '68, this was probably the most uncomfortable 45 minutes of my life.

What made this particular evening so painful? Set aside the inevitable Beauty and the Beast scenario of sultry Italian absolutely all over sallow, sulky, insipid French guy with extremely large nose. That goes without saying. But have you ever been trying to watch your favourite television programme of the week when one of your friends, who has zero appreciation of the intricacies of "Star Trek" or "The Flintstones", chooses this time to drop by and sits down next to you?



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



So it was during the first half of the France-Croatia game, spent in some smoky dive near the waterfront in Marseilles, before I eventually did a runner. The Italian woman wanted Croatia to win because France had beaten Italy, as did the Iranian woman, on account of Croatia having beaten Germany who had beaten Iran. I, on the other hand, was broadly pro-France.

But Claude? He had his back stiffly to the screen and his Cyrano de Bergerac nose in the air, taking no notice either of the match or even of the Italian pawing him passionately. In the man's defence, let it be said that the first half was not a classic. But even had it been an all-time great game, it wouldn't have made a blind bit of difference to this lad. I must have known 100 Claudes

over the ages. He is one of these staunchly anti-football types who have been writing letters to *Le Monde* scolding it for caving in and reporting a capitalist perversion/barbarian threat to civilisation (even if that newspaper has compromised by being always half-heartedly 48 hours or so behind the results). He is a high culture man - a student of sciences humaines at the University of Provence in Aix (where the two women were studying lettres modernes) - who looks on the game with all the enthusiasm of an ancient regime aristocrat eyeing a rabble kicking a guillotined head around.

Funnily enough, that's just what they were doing all around the Vieux Port later that night. Well, almost. I had a strange sense of déjà vu as the innumerable masses gathered again as they had a few

weeks ago for the England-Tunisia game. Except that this time there were (so far as I know) no hooligans and no police charges and no tear gas grenades going off. Only thousands of people yelling and singing and mambo-ing and waving flags and climbing up lamp-posts, and cars parping their horns, and motorbikes and scooters screaming up and down the main drag.

The quarters had come to the city to party. Even though the mob didn't actually do anything nasty to Claude (more's the pity), it was still a minor revolution, another Liberation.

"On a gagné, ils ont perdu" (we have won, they have lost) was about the only coherent sentence I heard after 11pm. But the "on" and the "ils" in this case should not be naively equated with France and Croatia. This was a "historic" night - as everyone has been saying - not so

much because the French team has made it to the World Cup finals for the first time, but because the balance has shifted in an ongoing cultural civil war which goes back a couple of centuries or more.

Football has become a symbol of the popular culture openly despised by the political establishment, rooted in the ironic, smart, effete intelligentsia of the grandes écoles of Paris, fixated to the point of overdose and hallucination with its own language, literature and history. Football is a window out on to another world.

Where Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the Surrealists, and Jacques Derrida had a crack at deconstructing French culture and failed (because in the end they were only writers), maybe Lilian Thuram and Zinedine Zidane will be more successful.

When Iran qualified for the World Cup, as Nagine (the Iranian woman) recalled, the ayatollahs had to ease up on their traditional denunciation of football as some kind of false idol on the grounds that Mohammed didn't play and it isn't in the Koran.

France, now it has got into the final, is a like a more secular Iran. Football used to belong to those isolated islands of counter-culture known as Marseilles, St Etienne etc. Now France is having to modify its mythology and re-think itself as a serious football-playing nation.

President Chirac, who claims to have wanted to be a goalkeeper, was a second behind Michel Platini in jumping to his feet when France scored the winner on Wednesday. But he did definitely raise a cheer. The high priests are having to accommodate the new anti-cartesian tendency, "I play therefore I am."

'Little Ant's' empire built on hard work

IT IS no exaggeration to suggest that victory over France in Paris on Sunday would put Brazil's elderly coach, Mario Zagallo, beyond emulation as the most remarkable figure in World Cup history.

Nobody is about to include Zagallo among the most gifted performers to represent the game's most successful and emotive national team, but, if a second victory as coach is added to those Zagallo achieved as a player in 1958 and 1962, even the most vehemently damning of some compatriots (including Pele) will be obliged to recognise the full extent of his influence.

Watching this shortish, slight figure running a hand through the remaining strands of his white hair, then removing spectacles to brush away the tears after Brazil qualified for the final from a penalty shoot-out against the Netherlands in Marseilles, you could not help wondering what was going through his mind.

Back, perhaps, to 16 July 1950 when, as a teenage conscript in soldier's uniform, he gazed at the new wonder of Maracana before enduring the disappointment of a defeat by Uruguay that prevented Brazil from winning their first World Cup.

Zagallo's unwavering philosophy, one that requires the conversion of individualism to a collective purpose, was probably formed from an experience so shocking for the Brazilian nation that many suicides were reported. "To lose that game when we were the best team in the competition, with such a player as Zizinho (Pele's all-time favourite) and home advantage taught me that ability is not enough in football," Zagallo once said when we shared a taxi from the Football Association offices in London.

By then Zagallo, who was on his way to work in Kuwait, had

Zagallo is the Brazilian coach whose decision to tamper with tradition is about to be rewarded. By Ken Jones

become the first in history to win the World Cup as a player and coach, a record later equalled by Franz Beckenbauer when West Germany overcame Argentina in the 1990 final.

Zagallo's inclusion in Brazil's squad for the 1958 finals in Sweden was not greeted with much enthusiasm. But if Zagallo could not match the virtuosity of Didi, Garrincha and, of course, Pele, whose unsurpassable gifts were about to be revealed, his play had the merit of conviction and unflagging industry.

Zagallo's sobriquet "The Little Ant" was perfect in description. A worker, scurrying between attack and defence on Brazil's left-wing, his natural persistence and sense of responsibility gave birth to the 4-3-3 formation he would employ in 1970 when given charge of that superlative group of footballers who swept to an imperious triumph in the finals in Mexico.

The circumstances surrounding Zagallo's appointment for that tournament and the galaxy of talent available caused many in Brazil to question his contribution. Some felt that he had merely inherited an unbeatable team from João Saldanha, a political activist and former player whose criticism by the press and across the airwaves had helped to bring about his appointment as national coach. When Saldanha went too far in resistance to meddling by the right-wing authority, he was replaced by Zagallo barely two months before the finals in Mexico.

The romance of Saldanha's preferred 4-2-4 became Zagallo's

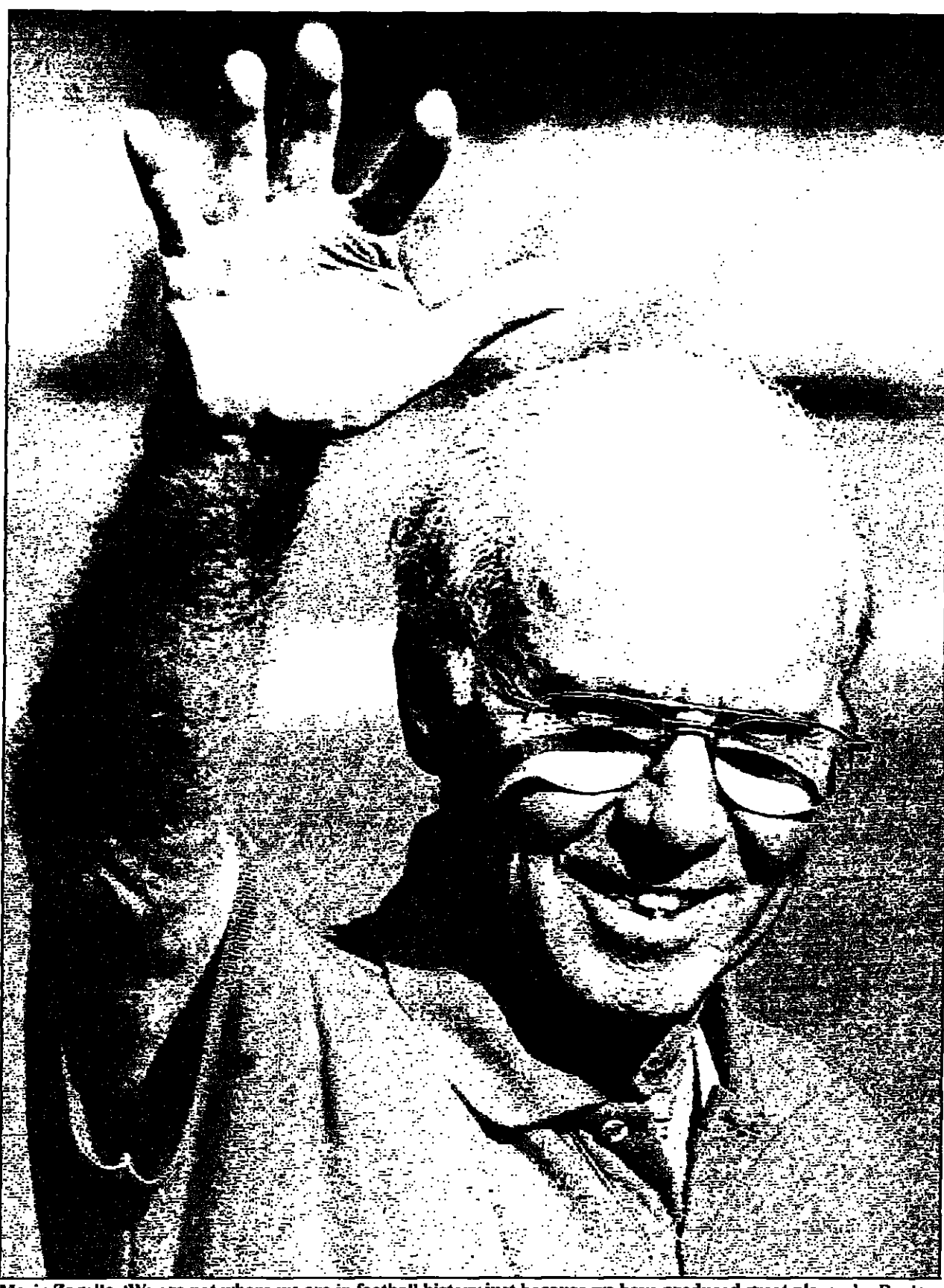
4-3-3. "It is impossible to make comparisons with the team we had then and the one we have now," he said before embarking on these finals. "In 1970 it was rare for Brazilian players to go abroad and, therefore, much easier to keep the squad together. And, of course, we had players with a deep understanding of the game and a great sense of responsibility."

With Pele at the peak of his powers, Gerson a cerebral influence in midfield, Tostão the perfect centre-forward for that team, Rivelino, Jairzinho, Carlos Alberto and Clodoaldo, it was understandable that Zagallo gained less credit than he deserved.

It was believed in Brazil that the truth about Zagallo became clear in 1974 when a team weakened by the retirement from international football of its greatest stars fell by the wayside. Becoming ever more reclusive as the tournament progressed, his bedside reading a book on voodoo, Zagallo's time with Brazil appeared to be over.

Almost forgotten in the 20 years that followed, years during which Brazil failed to capitalise on the talents of Zico, Falcão, Socrates and Junior - although only the absence through injury of a gifted centre-forward, Reinaldo, denied them a triumph in the 1982 finals - Zagallo was asked five years ago to work alongside his old Middle East sparring partner, Carlos Alberto Parreira.

Seen as the instigator of Brazil's cautious approach to the World Cup finals in the United States four years ago, one that turned the tag light on midfield artistry, Zagallo was



Mario Zagallo: 'We are not where we are in football history just because we have produced great players' Reuters

blamed for a style that contradicted Brazil's footballing traditions.

Even now, with Brazil through to their sixth appearance in the finals and heavily fancied to overcome the hosts, Zagallo comes under fire, although less in made of Zico's appointment as technical co-

ordinator, made in what appeared to be haste after an embarrassing loss to the United States earlier this year.

Zagallo's quiet assertion that it is his team, his strategy, is unchallenged. "Football has changed in many ways," he said during the early stages of these finals. "There are many

influences we did not have even just 10 years ago. But, in any case, Brazil are not where they are in football history simply because our culture has produced so many outstanding players. Pele was a great worker for the team, always running in the field, trying to make things happen.

This is true of all really great players.

Zagallo's team is not short of the ability to adorn Sunday's final with flourishes for which Brazilian football is famous, but it is the work ethic that will figure most prominently when the "Little Ant" gives his final briefing.

Blanc looks follow dirty tricks

IT'S GOT to stop. All the play-acting and dirty tricks designed to weaken and demoralise your opponents came to a head during the semi-finals, as we knew it would with the ultimate prize awaiting. But that's no excuse for bad behaviour and under-hand tactics. Though I don't like singling out individuals for blame since both sides have been as calculating as each other, I have no hesitation in naming and shaming those who have brought the game into disrepute with their antics - BBC and ITV Sport.

It's been bad enough with what the players have been getting up to without the broadcasters becoming involved, but now that they are competing in the final on Sunday, anything goes. Even the BBC's continuity announcer got into the act before the start of Wednesday night's semi-final between France and Croatia: "And now it's time for the footy here on the good old BBC," he cooed before emphasising that it was "Live, UNINTERRUPTED play!"

STAN HEY
VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR



This is spin-speak for "we don't have silly adverts getting in the way of our broadcasts, you know". But what the announcer did not say was that the coverage would be interrupted instead by the midweek National Lottery draw, an event as insane as any of the Vauxhall adverts on the other side.

The BBC's black propaganda continued almost immediately with Gary Lineker and Mark Lawrenson expressing the hope that tonight's game would be better than the 1-1 draw between the Netherlands and Brazil, the subliminal message being that that had been

on ITV. "It'll be about four-all, this one," Des Lynam said with a twinkle, aware of the hype but trying to distance himself from it in case it rebounded on him.

This the first half certainly did, going exactly as feared with Croatia defending so deep they might easily have been in Lyons rather than Paris. Equally, the France team, unlike their trade unions, could not get in a decent strike. "There'll be goals," Martin O'Neill had predicted, before adding disarmingly "but I don't have a clue where they'll come from."

Fortunately for the BBC, someone in the Croatia squad

must have won a share of the half-time lottery because the team came out with what you could once call "gay abandon", and scored within 30 seconds. But they then forgot that France had restarted the game and conceded a soft equaliser. Even O'Neill could not have guessed that this goal would come from a man called Lilian Thuram, nor that he would get another soon afterward.

Against their worst expectations, the BBC now have a game on their hands and John Motson increased his decibel level as the Croats sought an equaliser. "Goran Vlaovic could have made a real name for himself there!" Motty screamed, while fans of the programme *Countdown* immediately picked up their pad and pencil to work out what it might be - five vowels, and seven consonants? Tricky.

Meanwhile, Trevor Brooking, who had been rather sidelined by the non-event first half, finally got himself a much sought-after talking point when

Croatia's Slaven Bilic, lawyer and newspaper columnist, revealed another talent - soap opera acting. Bilic had already been glimpsed earlier in a slow motion replay, practising on Emmanuel Petit some of the dialogue he had picked up in his year on Merseyside. "... off, you French ****!" he said in a style that should soon get him a part in *Brookside*.

But now, thanks to Bilic, it was another France player who was sent off, the immaculate Laurent Blanc. There was general sympathy for Blanc afterwards and some fairly fierce condemnation of Bilic from both Ally McCoist and Alan Hansen.

I'm embarrassed for him watching that," McCoist said with a shake of the head, leaving no doubt that the refereeing regime instituted by Fifa had now become a source of exploitation for the more cynical players. But nobody suggested that Fifa, who had increased the suspensions on the likes of Zinedine Zidane and David

Beckham based on video evidence, should use the same medium to acquit the innocent. This may be one issue best left to *The Moral Maze*.

Despite the BBC panel's sudden outbreak of sanctimony, it didn't stop Des performing his usual shirt-pull on ITV. Having set up the prospects for a France-Brazil final - and my friend Gloomy Jim points out that neither side had to qualify for this tournament - Des went straight for the jugular by staring straight down the lens. Summoning his best Sainsbury's commercial voice he said: "Being the good judges that you are, I know where you're going to watch it."

The BBC needs to preserve its audience share for the final, not just to justify the licence fee but also to boost the morale of its under-funded sports department. Meanwhile, ITV, having delivered a huge audience to advertisers for the England-Argentina game, needs to maintain that momentum. So don't rule out a dirty final.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

CROATIA'S MEDIA yesterday blamed a lack of concentration in defence for the 2-1 defeat by France in Wednesday's World Cup semi-final, but praised their overall performance in the tournament.

All five national newspapers covered the match on their front pages, with most commentaries focusing on two defensive mistakes that cost Croatia a place in the final against Brazil.

"The hosts accepted what was offered to them," said *Jutarnji List*. "Of course, qualifying among the top four nations in the world is a big success, but we still feel sorry for a missed chance to play in the final."

"Heads up 'Fiery', you played a great game and wrote a beautiful French fairy-tale," *Vjesnik* said. In Croatia the team are known as the "fiery XI".

Most writers agreed the team had a great chance after Davor Suker scored seconds after half-time, but

they blew it seconds later when the captain, Zvonimir Boban, lost a ball on the edge of the area for Lilian Thuram's equaliser.

Most newspapers named Thuram as the man of the match. "Lilian Thuram - a narrow line between a hero and a loser," said *Vjesnik*, recalling Suker had scored after an attempted offside trap failed because Thuram stayed back.

In France, the hosts' unprecedented success dominated news programmes and covered the front pages of daily newspapers.

"The Dream Final" said *Libération* above a photo of ecstatic French players climbing over Thuram. "The current world champions are the last obstacle to France's nirvana."

Another paper, *Le Parisien*, splashed: "Thuram, Thuram!" across its front page. Inside it wrote: "A statue for Lilian Thuram right away. Anywhere. Last night, he was immense."

Vogts to stay on as coach

BERTI VOGTS will definitely carry on as Germany's coach, despite coming under fire at home for his country's disappointing performances at the World Cup finals.

The German football federation president, Egidius Braun, said that he had had talks with Vogts since the 3-0 quarter-final defeat by Croatia last Saturday and said the coach would not be quitting.

Braun said: "The main question I asked was: 'Have you got the courage and energy to take care of the rebuilding of our national team?' His answer was quite clear. He is available to do it. I see no better national team coach than Vogts, and that is why I have full confidence in him."

Vogts came under fire from the German media again on Thursday, accused of being a bad loser after his team's 3-0 defeat by Croatia.

"Berti, this is how you do it," Germany's biggest-selling newspaper *Bild* said, printing a picture of the Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, in an embrace with his Brazilian rival Mario Zagallo after the Netherlands' defeat in Tuesday's semi-final. Vogts was accused of showing no grace in defeat.

In an open letter to the German coach, *Bild* added: "We are no longer one of the best teams in the world. In performance terms, we are now between Mexico and Paraguay."

Paradoxically, Hiddink has been fined 10,000 Swiss francs (£3,900) for unsportsmanlike behaviour during the semi-final against Brazil. World football's ruling body Fifa, announcing the decision yesterday, said Hiddink had gone out of the technical zone near the bench too often during the match, and had caused problems for the officials.

France's defensive midfielder Christian Karembeu is a doubtful starter for Sunday's final against Brazil because of a strained left ankle, a team spokesman said yesterday.

Karembeu sustained the injury in Wednesday's 2-1 victory over Croatia in the semi-final. He had to be substituted in the 31st minute.

By tinkering we've created a cheats' charter

I WAS expecting big things from France in their semi-final against Croatia but I was disappointed with the way they played. My tip at the start of the tournament, I am sticking with them to come through and win on Sunday - although I fear for them against Brazil. It will be a very difficult contest for the host nation.

They started Wednesday's game looking bright, playing with enthusiasm and a lot of pace but not really creating chances. The longer it went on the more France seemed to get frustrated by the Croats, who were playing a crafty game - and a cagey game - only throwing players forward when they had control of the situation.

I was concerned for French hopes when Croatia took the lead, because their initial pace had dropped and they were not making much progress.



JACK CHARLTON

It's amazing that in both semi-finals, goals were scored within the first minute of the second half. Nothing is more guaranteed to have a coach tearing his hair out. The last thing you say to your team, both before the start of the game and again

at half-time, is to maintain concentration and to let the game settle down before attempting anything too ambitious.

Another unwritten rule is to keep things tight immediately after you've scored, but Croatia were badly caught out almost as soon as they went in front. Zvonimir Boban was robbed while in possession, enabling Lilian Thuram to play a one-two with Youri Djorkaeff and move into position for the shot which gave France their equaliser.

I wouldn't necessarily criticise Boban because, like all continental players in that area of the field, he is not expecting any pressure on the ball. When these guys are performing before a worldwide audience, the last thing they want to do is hump the ball up the field. Boban wanted to play the ball out of defence in his

own time. With Ireland we always found a lot of joy from pressurising players in that situation, because they just weren't prepared for it.

It proved to be a wonderful night for Thuram, but from a defensive point of view I thought he was found wanting. Apart from the Croatian goal, when he was going backwards as the rest of the defence were coming out, there were one or two other promising moments for Croatia that came from his area of the field.

The sending-off was a bitter blow for France because Laurent Blanc is a very dependable, experienced defender. He may not have intended to make contact with Slaven Bilic, he just swung out a hand in frustration because the Croatian was pulling his shirt and giving him all sorts of trouble. Then Bilic goes down, not as if

someone has put a hand on his chin, but as though he's been hit over the head by an anvil.

By tinkering again with the rules and banning the tackle from behind we have created a charter for cheats. When you stop players and coaches from doing something, they will come up with something else. I'm certain the coaches have a responsibility for what has been going on in France, they will be saying to their players: "if you feel yourself touched, go down. if you are about to be tackled make sure you don't jump over the challenge".

I thought the referee was awful on Wednesday night and I have great fears for Sunday's final. Fifa has put the Moroccan, Said Belqola, in charge and we can only hope that he controls the game the way he thinks it should be handled, and not

the way he thinks Mr. Blatter, Mr. Platini and the other Fifa officials want it to be refereed, because that would be to knacker it. It is the biggest game in the world and we don't want it ruined.

Hopefully we will get the open, attacking game that is promised. If you were to ask me in what areas France could take advantage of Brazil, I would have to say there aren't any. Brazil looked uncomfortable when the Netherlands were putting in crosses from wide positions, but France haven't got anyone to do that and they still haven't found anyone to really fire the attack.

It's difficult for their forwards when they have someone like Zinedine Zidane running all over the place and I wouldn't be surprised if the front players are getting a little mixed up. They have some good

players in the advanced positions, but they probably won't be seen at their best until they use Zidane as a mid-fielder and not a forward-runner.

France are fortunate that they have a defender as accomplished as Franck Leboeuf to replace Blanc. The Chelsea man is a good header of the ball, reads the game well and will slot in without any problem. I would like to see him a bit stronger in the tackle, but in the modern era there seems to be a greater requirement on central defenders to be able to play.

Before this week's games I would have said France had better teamwork than the Brazilians but now I am not so sure. They got pulled about by the Croats and that is a worrying sign. Still, as their great moment beckons, I am not about to desert them.

The ultimate honour: French coach earns an apology from biggest critics as he creates history

Jacquet wins 'grudge' match

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Clairefontaine

HUMBLE PIE was served with champagne at Clairefontaine yesterday.

The French coach, Aimé Jacquet, is a gentle, professorial man but, like most academics, he finds few things more nourishing than a grudge.

Monsieur Jacquet has been the butt of press and public scorn for months ("the wrong squad; the wrong tactics; the wrong manager"). The day after France reached the World Cup final for the first time, he could not resist a little mocking triumphalism.

Speaking at his team's retreat in the Forest of Rambouillet, he dedicated the French semi-final victory over Croatia to a whole list of people, including "those people who believed in us... and those journalists who did their job correctly and honestly".

Lequipe, the great French sports daily which led the anti-Jacquet charge, pre-empted him yesterday with a front-page apology - or partial apology. Under the banner headline "Heroics", the newspaper said it clung to the view that Jacquet had made many mistakes but it must now admit that he had "brought an exceptional team to the highest level, in his own way".

The France team - more relaxed than at any time since the tournament started - chatted amiably to the assembled French and foreign press for two hours, despite hardly having slept after the semi-final victory. Officials of the French football federation broke out the France 98 branded champagne for the first time. The press open day turned into a garden party in the stunning grounds of the Domaine de Montjoie, a chateau converted ten years ago into the National Technical Centre for Football.

Judging by the mood at Clairefontaine, or the crazy celebrations in Paris and other French towns on Wednesday night, one might think that France had already won the World Cup, or that it did not matter to Jacquet and his men what happened in the final on Sunday. Wrong, said Jacquet.

"I have not yet absorbed entirely the fact that we are in the World Cup Final, something which we have longed for and planned for over so many months. To be honest, I am still a little out on my feet... but don't be fooled by the celebrations in Paris into thinking that we have done our job. Anybody who thinks that doesn't know my guts..."

Jacquet admitted that the Croatia game - even before the sending off of Laurent Blanc - had been the most difficult of the tournament. "In every other match, we have been the



Aimé Jacquet has got to grips with his detractors in the media after his controversial team selections, which have taken France to the World Cup final

master of the game throughout. Croatia succeeded in putting us into difficulties, in making us forget what we wanted to do."

He described the instant equalising goal by the right full-back Lilian Thuram as "providential".

Thuram, one of the quietest members of the France squad, was the main attraction at Clairefontaine yesterday. After 31 matches in the French colours without a single goal, he scored twice in 23 minutes, including one from a thunderous shot with his left foot.

"Usually when I hit anything with my left foot, it goes over the stand. Marcel Desailly kept coming over to me after the second goal and asking: 'What's got into you?' I just said: 'I don't know. When the final whistle went, I was astonished. I couldn't believe that the game was over and we had won. It was more emotion than I could cope with.'"

Thuram, a bookish-looking young man in metal-rimmed spectacles, had to choose as a teenager between becoming a footballer and becoming a priest. Perhaps that is what

Jacquet meant when coming out with his description of that all important goal.

The Parma player - who was voted the best foreign defender in Serie A - denied suggestions that he had been stung into scoring by his mistake in letting in Davor Suker to put Croatia ahead in the first minute of the second half.

"I don't accept it was my fault. It was a general mistake of covering in the defence... but it's true that when that goal went in, I said to myself: 'It can't happen like this. We

can't lose. I've got to do something'. And then I found myself in the penalty area, with the ball at my feet."

Thuram, 27, said the France-Brazil final was the "kind of game you dream of... It's the kind of game where you want to take pleasure from living every kick, every ball."

"When I was a kid we played the World Cup final over and over on the playground and it was always France versus Brazil. I usually played for Brazil."

Asked if he believed France could win, Thuram said: "Yes, because we will be living and touching our dreams. Not everyone has a chance in their lives to do that. If we can take energy from the crowd, in communion with the whole nation, and surpass ourselves, we can win. It is that capacity to surpass yourself which is the most beautiful thing in sport."

When the young Lilian Thuram made his choice of career it would appear that France gained a brilliant footballer but Rome lost a rather eloquent priest.

Leboeuf ready for his toughest test yet

FRANCK LEOBOEUF is one game away from becoming a World Cup winner. Chelsea's cultured central defender will be drafted in to play on the biggest stage of all after the first-choice French sweeper Laurent Blanc was sent off against Croatia in Wednesday's World Cup semi-final.

Leboeuf will line up alongside his new Stamford Bridge team-mate, Marcel Desailly, as Les Bleus bid for glory against the Boys from Brazil in Sunday's World Cup final. While Leboeuf has acquired a reputation as a thinking man's footballer, he admitted that anything will go against Ronaldo and Co on Sunday.

"I don't want to imagine what I will do to stop him," said Leboeuf, before smiling broadly. He added that he would not allow fears about the world's greatest player to undermine him in the next few days.

"I cannot afford to think about Ronaldo. I just have to think about

my football and the way we will play," he said. "You don't mark a man thinking he's Ronaldo, with all that that means. You just have to try to do it. I'm not worried about him and you can't just try to stop Ronaldo because we know we have to stop Ronaldo, Bebeto, maybe Denilson as well."

"But I'm very confident because I'm sure we can beat Brazil. We just have to be very tuned in. It means it will make it an unbelievable game for me. It could be the happiest moment in my life - but it could also be the saddest. We will have to wait and see, but I'm sure we'll be ready."

Leboeuf is the beneficiary of Blanc's misfortune and the acting skills of Everton defender Slaven Bilic, proving he can turn a pin-prick into the stuff of high tragedy. And Leboeuf admitted he had to contend with very mixed emotions, saying: "I'm very sad for Laurent but that's

life, football life anyway. "And from my point of view I will be playing in the World Cup final, so I have to be happy with that."

"I've not spoken much to him yet. There are times when it's better to keep silent. What can I say to him? I'm sure he's sad. I feel really sorry for him but really happy for myself."

"You can't think about the player who was sent off, or even really think about yourself. You just have to tell yourself to get on the pitch and be ready mentally to play well."

"As soon as I saw the red card for Laurent I knew what it meant for me. I told myself that it was unbelievable. But not, he revealed, entirely unexpected."

"I just knew it was going to happen," he explained. "Three friends of mine told me they had all dreamed about the final and that they had seen me playing in the game. Now I know it wasn't them dreaming - it was them



Leboeuf: Knew he would play

seeing the reality." A premonition that will change Leboeuf's life.

The coach, Aimé Jacquet, said he was confident that Leboeuf could fill the breach and explained: "He has worked hard on the training ground and prepared well, just as hard as the players who were playing."

"That is a great bonus and we know that when he goes out to play on Sunday he will be calm and composed, not let the occasion get to him, just get on with it."

Warren earns final accolade

AN ENGLISHMAN, Mark Warren, will run the line at Sunday's World Cup final between Brazil and France. The match at the Stade de France in St Denis will be refereed by the Moroccan official, Said Belqola.

Warren was the assistant referee for the quarter-final between Italy and France. The other linesman on Sunday will be Achmat Salle from South Africa.

Belqola, a 41-year-old customs inspector was in charge of the Germany against United States match on 15 June as well as the group match between Argentina and Croatia in Bordeaux.

A referee since 1983, Belqola has taken charge of international matches since 1993 and officiated at the Tournoi de France last summer, before refereeing several World Cup qualifiers. As well as Arabic, his mother tongue, he speaks English and French.

Paraguay's Epifanio Chavez, 40, will referee the third-place play-off match tomorrow between the Netherlands and Croatia at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

Warren's appointment makes him the first English official to be appointed for a World Cup final since Jack Taylor refereed the 1974 final between the Netherlands and West Germany. A 38-year-old West Midlands policeman, he was only promoted to the Football League referees list in May of this year. He has been on the League's linesmen list since the 1991-92 season.

Warren ran the line in the 1997 Coca-Cola Cup final between Leicester City and Middlesbrough at Wembley, and the replay at Hillsborough. He will referee his first Football League game on the opening day of the 1999-98 Nationwide season on 8 August. He was an assistant referee at this year's African Nations' Cup finals in Burkina Faso.



DIARY

THE REPUTATION of the English football supporter as a laddish, beer-swilling neanderthal, more interested in David Beckham's flashing boots than Posh Spice's dazzling charms has suffered a crushing blow. According to the Picture Dating Agency of Villiers Street, London, the quality of eligible men has dived alarmingly during France 98 and caused considerable distress to their women applicants, who blame the shortage of suitable suitors on the counter-attractions of the World Cup. The saddest tales tell of the lady rendezvousing with the man whose idea of a romantic evening was to share sandwiches and a flask of coffee in a car park, not any old car park but the one belonging to the best restaurant in the area. Then there was the chimney sweep, who had dyed his hair Beckham-fashion not to improve his sexual allure but so his work colleagues could tell him apart from his brushes.

It's not always the beautiful game where Brazil is concerned - at least it is not for Alan, the television and radio pundit of that name, who yesterday was declared bankrupt after a failed pub venture in Ipswich.

For those of us in the trade, it can be a difficult task persuading friends and family that covering something like a World Cup under a relentless French sun while having to put up with the local cuisine is nothing short of hard labour. So it comes as no surprise to us to learn that the medical centres at France 98 have received regular visits from hard-pressed and over-worked journalists. No fewer than 700 reporters have reported sick during the tournament.

Nor is it easy being a socialist and a keen follower of the World Cup. Your heart might beat in step with the samba, you might well marvel at the breathtaking acceleration of Ronaldo, but you just can't ignore the political truth that the Brazilian government does not always look kindly on left-wingers (and this despite the profusion of left-sided attacking players in Mario Zagallo's team). Or you might believe that the host nation deserves to win this World Cup, that Zinedine Zidane is without peer as a creative midfield player, that Didier Deschamps has raised the stock of the water-carrier worldwide, only for your fervour to be cooled by that country's racist elements and the French National Front. "The tournament has provoked much argument that has gone beyond footballing merits," said Keith Flett, editor of the Socialist Footballer. "By the second-round phase 80 per cent of us were cheering for France as a country with a left-of-centre government which, while far from ideal, is several paces ahead of Blair's New Labour. The rest at that stage were split between Brazil, England and those who thought the whole thing was a bourgeois diversion once Scotland went out. Now it's a toss-up between Brazil and France and I wouldn't like to say how it's going to go."

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

French lesson: With Laurent Blanc unjustly banned from the final, Fifa must accept the need for video evidence

Decency of the game dragged into the gutter

BY GLENN MOORE
in Paris

THE BUTCHERS have been consigned to the scrapheap of history, now it is time for Fifa to turn on the cheats. Less physically damaging, but just as morally debilitating, the likes of Lorenzo Staelens, Diego Simeone, Davor Suker and, now, Slaven Bilic, have disfigured a World Cup generally regarded as enterprising and honest. The decency of the game is at stake and it will require more than a Fifa directive to referees to save it, it needs a fundamental overhaul in disciplinary practice and philosophy.

The behaviour of Bilic is indicative of the malaise that threatens the game. This urbane, educated man was a central figure in the most cynical defence of the tournament and, on Wednesday night, proved one of the most convincing "divers".

Yesterday a wave of criticism fell upon the Croat, though not as much in France as in England, where such behaviour is especially frowned upon. But, apart from a sullied public image – which is unlikely to concern such a strong-minded individual – he will suffer no further punishment. Meanwhile, Laurent Blanc, who was foolish but not malicious, must miss out on the pinnacle of any footballer's career. At 32, he knows he will never get the chance again.

Blanc, having been daft enough to raise his hands to an opponent, has no opportunity to appeal. Like David Beckham, he will long rue his misjudgement. But Bilic should not escape.

This is the most televised event in history, dozens of cameras capture every incident, the tapes are then watched repeatedly by Fifa's technical committee as it searches for trends and patterns in the sport. However, only in exceptional cir-

cumstances does Fifa's disciplinary committee watch the game videos.

committee watch the same videos. This is anachronistic and negligent. As in rugby league it should watch the games and administer justice on the evidence. This is not undermining the referee, no one can be expected to see everything that goes on between 22 men on a pitch measuring 7,500 square yards. Referees are undermined when their inevitable errors lead to injustice. If Staelens, who took a dive when Patrick Kuivert pushed his arm into the Belgian's chest in their group game, had been suspended instead of the Dutchman, Bilic may have thought twice about his actions.

One of the problems is the finality of a red card and the difficulty for referees to balance the pressure to use it with the need to prevent matches becoming eight-a-side. It is time for Fifa to experiment with a sin-bin, as in hockey and rugby league, in which a player is sent off for a discretionary period. This would allow some leeway when an offence is more than a yellow but not quite a red. It would also create the excitement of a "power-play" with spectators counting down the period in which a team is short-handed.

Another problem is the degree of contact now common in penalty areas before set-pieces. The Germany-Croatia game, as Bilić admitted, saw far worse encounters than the Blanc incident. At times it was a wrestling match. Shirt-pulling and holding have become such standard defensive procedure players seem shocked when they are penalised. Referees now appear to let all but the most blatant examples go, with the inevitable consequence that it will become endemic at every level. If it were not for the loss of income from the sales of replica shirts, teams might even consider playing in "skins".

If there were to be a crackdown

on this, there would be several months during which penalties would be awarded on a staggering scale with protests to match. But, eventually, defenders would learn to keep their hands to themselves just as they are learning to stay on their feet in the tackle.

More penalties, sin-binned players, less holding and pulling, all this would lead to more goals, which would both increase excitement and decrease the impact of a single refereeing error. Obviously, no one wants football to be like basketball but a few more 4-3s would be better than 1-0s.

Blanc yesterday argued for former players to become referees. An ex-player may well have realised what was going on in the Croatian penalty area on Wednesday night but, to judge by Steve Baines in England, this would result in leniency. Not that it matters: Few ex-players would be interested, they would certainly not be in it for the money.

So far the refereeing in this tournament has been both impressive and confused. Most referees have been very good at spotting fouls, the problem is in the punishment. Some give cards for tackles from behind, some do not. While Beckham and Blanc were sent-off for relatively little taps, Dennis Bergkamp escaped trampling on Sinisa Mihajlovic and Stéphane Guivarc'h survived elbowing Fabio Cannavaro.

In a human game inconsistency is inevitable and players, who call for referees to be allowed to apply common sense rather than rule by dictat, cannot have it both ways. It is to be hoped Sunday's final will not be decided by a refereeing error or a cheat. In appointing, possibly for political reasons, a referee (Morocco's Said Belgola) with no experience of the European game, where almost every significant footballer plays, Fifa has taken a risk.



The French defender, Laurent Blanc, is horrified by the referee's verdict after Wednesday's clash with Slaven Bilic Allsport

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

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SPORT

BRAZIL'S LITTLE ANT ON TOP OF HEAP P29 • TOURMINATOR SADDLES UP P24

Red card rage: Football world unites to defend unlucky French defender as criticism mounts of Croat's conduct

Blanc banned but Bilic cast as the villain

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Clarendon

THE FOOTBALL world rose angrily yesterday to the defence of the French defender Laurent Blanc, who described his sending-off against Croatia in Wednesday's World Cup semi-final as a "personal catastrophe".

Fifa, world football's ruling body, peremptorily rejected a formal French appeal against the dismissal, despite the almost unanimous view of neutral commentators that Blanc was the victim of a piece of outrageous play-acting by Croatia's Everton stopper, Slaven Bilic.

The cultured Marseilles defender, never previously sent off in 70 international matches, will miss the World Cup final against Brazil on Sunday. His place will be taken by the Chelsea centre-back, Frank Leboeuf.

Blanc's sending-off, when Bilic sank to the ground as if shot during a piece of jockeying for position in the penalty area, brought to a head the growing anxieties about refereeing decisions in France 98. It also cast new doubts on the intrusive role of the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, who had previously criticised Wednesday's referee for failing to send off Dennis Bergkamp in the Dutch match against Yugoslavia.

Señor Jose Garcia Aranda from Spain showed Blanc the red card after he pushed and handed off Bilic as France prepared to take a free-kick in the 74th minute of the semi-final at the Stade de France. Bilic had been showing and holding Blanc to a typical penalty-area joust for position. The Croat defender fell to the ground holding his head, although television replays showed Blanc's hand had, at most, brushed his neck.

Yesterday, at the French training camp in Clairefontaine, south-west of Paris, a clearly distraught Blanc said that

missing the World Cup final was a "personal catastrophe".

"But a personal catastrophe is something I can deal with. If my sending-off had led to Croatia equalising and going on to win the game, I would have been devastated. The important thing is that we are through to the final."

Blanc, 32, said the referee was "clearly out of position to see what had really gone on... Yes, there was a clash between us but it was the kind of thing that happens at every corner and free-kick. He was holding me and I brushed him away. There was no question of me trying to punch him or slap him. Why should I? It was our free-kick. What would I have had to gain?"

Blanc said Bilic "played his part well", convincing the unsighted referee that he had done something "wicked" when he had not. "When the referee came over I thought he would give me a yellow card, otherwise I would have talked to him in Spanish. [Blanc used to play

for Barcelona]. When he produced the red, I was astonished but there was nothing I could say. You have to respect the referee's decision."

"He [Bilic] came up to me after the match to apologise, saying he was sorry that I had been sent off. I felt like punching him then."

The French coach, Aimé Jacquet, also criticised the sending-off as "quite unjustified." Distress for Blanc had cast a shadow, he said, over the French team's celebrations.

Blanc has in fact been banned for two matches by Fifa - he will also miss France's first European Championship qualifier in Iceland in September. Fifa has said that there can be no appeal against the ban.

There was a strident response yesterday from England's football establishment to Blanc's fate. The Premiership referee Steve Lodge said: "Players have been going down at the drop of a hat. It's very easy for people to say referees should take action against these players, but this sort of offence is one of the most difficult things to identify."

Brendan Batson, the deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "It's sad to think that the actions of one professional can get another sent off."

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, said: "Blanc went down as if he'd been killed. It's part of the Croatian culture to do that kind of thing, and he won't worry about it for a second. There's no way he'll regret his actions, it's not in his nature." Everton declined to comment on Bilic's conduct. Tackling the cheats, page 31, Jacquet earns respect, page 30



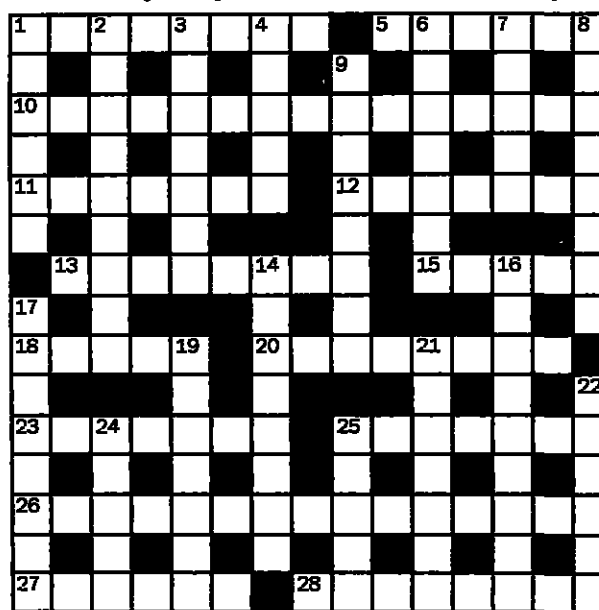
Top: Frenchman Laurent Blanc (No 5) pushes Slaven Bilic away after the Croatian player had pulled him in Wednesday's semi-final. Bottom: Blanc turns towards the referee as Bilic collapses to the ground



THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3659 Friday 10 July

By Phi



Thursday's solution

ACROSS
1 End of game filling 40 hours a week? (4-4)
5 Regard English hacking hunt-gatherings (6)
10 What's uncovered in particular singer (listen to the woman!) (2,3,10)
11 Sailors were very happy to take me North (7)
12 Finished with drink it's unusually salty (4,3)
13 Exiles mentioned returning or settling in Pennsylvania (8)
15 A quiet friend gets shock... (5)
18 ...contend shock's not right (5)
20 Leave some to join in (4,4)
23 Location not in Preston, I admit (or is it?) (7)
25 Provide vase to be put in

DOWN
1 Bird goes around Lake to take evasive action (6)
2 Characters giving permission without hesitation (9)
3 Flask drunkard tipped up when going round Channel island (7)
4 Fruit left out initially to be consumed by people (6)
6 Composer encountered one in South Africa (7)
7 Destroyed the heart of most moral significance

8 Extra cut added to total? It doesn't matter to someone so wounded (8)
9 Restrain hard veteran footballer (4,4)
14 Had more girlfriends, perhaps, being old (3-5)
16 Showing cheek in hospital department is appropriate (9)
17 Finishing last in any event (5,3)
19 Uncommonly lenient artist (7)
21 Sun-god thus restricted by chum's sunshade (7)
22 Yorkshire town a little to one side (6)
24 Capital tourist attraction we found in part of Dartmoor (5)
25 Combined force's applied (5)

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP
at Silverstone

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER gave the strongest hint yet yesterday that he is to commit himself to Ferrari for a further two years, a deal that will add another \$50m to his fortune.

And he made it clear he will be giving nothing away on the track to his team-mate, Eddie Irvine, here on Sunday, even if it is the British Grand Prix.

The German has closed to within six points of McLaren-Mercedes's Mika Hakkinen at the top of the world championship, progress that has encouraged him to extend his association with Ferrari, whom he joined in 1996 after winning

two titles with Benetton. It has long been supposed he would eventually return to Mercedes, who nurtured his talent, and McLaren's Ron Dennis acknowledges he would have to be interested in recruiting the world's greatest driver should he become available.

Ferrari, however, recognise Schumacher is crucial to their prospects and he appears to find the challenge of leading the Italians back to the pinnacle of the sport irresistible. They last won the drivers' championship 19 years ago.

Asked if he would be staying at Ferrari, Schumacher replied:

"There is good reason that will happen."

But he dismissed rumours he would reward Irvine for his selfless support in France a fortnight ago by handing him the chance of victory in this race.

"I am going for the championship and can't give any presents. I need presents for myself," he said.

Ferrari have now produced a challenge to McLaren from nowhere but, if history is anything to go by, Schumacher will need all the help Irvine can give him. He has never won here and concedes McLaren

are likely to be stronger than they were in France.

Schumacher said: "I have tried many times to win here and I'll try again. I need the car to finish and me to do well. But it's going to be more difficult than it was at Magny-Cours."

"Things change from circuit to circuit. If it is wet it will be a slightly unclear picture and may suit us. But generally I prefer it to be dry."

Schumacher's characteristically aggressive racing has been a constant source of debate within Formula One prompting David Coulthard, the McLaren driver third in the championship,

to suggest he might consider quitting the Grand Prix Drivers' Association if they cannot agree a code of conduct. The Scotsman, Schumacher and Damon Hill are spokesmen for the organisation. Jacques Villeneuve has refused to join; he considers it a waste of time.

In the company of Schumacher and Villeneuve, Hill said: "It is for FIA [the sport's governing body] to apply the rules. I would urge David not to leave the GPDA and Jacques to join, because he could contribute something."

Hill was yesterday also being talked about as a target for the British American Racing team who make their grand prix debut next year.

Hill and Herbert hungry, page 24

Forget the football.

Instead, think about the sheer scale of World Cup 98. Issuing 25 million tickets. Co-ordinating 50,000 employees and volunteers. Providing information and resources for 12,000 journalists. Creating a web site to deal with up to 160 million visitors every day. Imagine the IT infrastructure needed to support this.

Now imagine having to do this under the critical eyes of 3.5 billion viewers, for 24 hours a day, without a moment's interruption.

This is the challenge that HP took up. And they have come up with the goods with the same apparent ease as Brazil reaching another Final.

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FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The notorious paedophile Robert Oliver (left) is expected any time now at a charity halfway house in the tiny village of Wing in Rutland. The mood of the people among whom he must live gets angrier by the hour. How, they want to know, can the safety of their children be guaranteed? But where, we want to know, will he live if not there?

A very English lynch mob

As lynch mobs go, it was a rather old fashioned and very English affair. In fact it's the kind of scene that Agatha Christie might have appreciated. The setting was a beautiful country lane near the tiny village of Wing in deepest Rutland. About 150 people gathered there at 6pm two days ago. They came by car, pushbike and pushchair. There were a few T-shirt and tattoo types but most were dressed in Marks & Spencer blouses and jumpers. Shoes were sensible. The mood was not. As one villager explained, they had tried being reasonable about the Home Office decision to move the notorious paedophile Robert Oliver to a charity halfway house on this deserted lane and that had got them nowhere. It was time for a little local ruthlessness.

"Can you guarantee the safety of our children? Can you do that one thing?" demanded a woman who looked the epitome of respectability except for the way she was brandishing her car key like a weapon. "I don't think that it is possible to..." he said.

"Yes or no! Yes or no!"
"It's not as easy as that..."
"Yes it is. It is very easy. A small child of 18 months can say yes or no!" said the woman, key stabbing the air.

Clearly Greg Smith, the regional representative of the Langley House Trust that runs the Christian rehabilitation house called Wing Grange could not. He was carrying a red Bible, and I hope it gave him some solace because he didn't get it from anyone else. His voice was monotone and occasionally patronising as he explained that there were already paedophiles in the community and that Robert Oliver would be electronically tagged and that there had been a significant security improvement at the Grange. The crowd were having none of it. "You have broken your promise to the community that you would never have paedophiles here!" shouted the key lady.

"It's not..."
"Lies, lies, lies!" shouted another woman from the back of the crowd who was older and wearing a red tartan skirt. In fact, looking closer, it became clear that this woman could actually be Miss Marple.

What would her creator have made of it all? At least a novel, I would think, because what is happening in Wing has most of the ingredients of a Christie classic. There is an evil man, a mystery decision, an ethical dilemma, a money motive and lots of village intrigue. Many believe their telephones are being tapped and see Special Branch types everywhere. Everyone seems to have a photocopy of one thing or another to show me.

"I never knew there were so many photocopies around," said one villager who refused to give me his name, showing me a piece of paper entitled "Lamb's to the Slaughter" that detailed how the paedophile gang that included Robert Oliver abducted and killed 14-year-old Jason Swift during a homosexual orgy in 1985. (Oliver was released last September and, after being banded from town to town, was moved temporarily to a secure unit in Milton Keynes.) "It's pretty amazing."

Perhaps, but what is happening in Wing is also worrying. As fact and rumour intertwine, public concern becomes twisted into an ugliness, easily exploited by the likes of the British National Party. The BNP has been leafletting here this week and wants to get more involved. This means that the Special Branch are indeed here, cruising round these pin-drop quiet streets lined with houses of yellow stone and hanging baskets of ferocious colour. The villagers claim they don't want anything to do with extremists, though one of them adds it might be useful to learn how to make a firebomb. I'm not sure if this is a joke.

So how did this conflict begin? From the



Brian Harris

villagers' point of view it all began a few months ago when someone noticed that Wing Grange was sprucing itself up. Why was that? Wing Grange is a half a mile out of the village but for years its 14 or so residents - mostly former thieves - have lived as a part of this community. They drank in the local pub, manned a stall at the fete, ran a pick-your-own fruit stall. These ex-cons are the type no one else wanted and villagers saw it as a duty to help with their rehabilitation. It all worked out rather well, considering, though over the years there have been an arson attack and a few other incidents. Security had never been a big thing here and the Grange has an open door policy. Why, then, was a new fence being erected?

The answer to this was not immediately clear. A local paper reported that Wing Grange was now taking released Section One prisoners, including paedophiles. This is a terrible thing to say in 1998. While it is true that the average paedophile - or, as one expert said, "your modern paedophile" - do live amongst us, in a family and in our communities, most of us ignore this information. The paedophile is today's monster: the man we would most like to burn at the stake. So, not unnaturally, the 300-strong community of Wing and neighbouring villagers were disturbed by the news. A series of meetings then took place.

The rumour was that Robert Oliver was coming. More meetings were organised. A

few villagers went to London to meet the Home Secretary himself on 22 June, and Jack Straw confirmed the rumour was true. The newly formed Rutland Community Protection Group was pleased to have got the truth at last but appalled to think that anyone would consider housing such a man in the ramshackle collection of Victorian farmhouses that comprise Wing Grange.

BY ANN TRENEMAN

Villagers suspect that money is somehow involved. Financial reports on file at the Charities Commission show that the Langley House Trust received a £763,000 grant from the Home Office in 1997. A further £1m was received for accommodation,

much of which must be from benefits. The trust's only other income is from donations and investments of about £250,000. That means the Trust relies on the Government, in one way or the other, for almost all of its money. When I mention this to Alun Michael, the Home Office Minister, he says any such link is ridiculous and points out that the Trust rejects more candidates for

rehabilitation than it accepts.

The central question is why the Government has chosen to put a notorious paedophile (and one who is technically free) in a private hostel that seems so vulnerable. The government is not in charge of this

place and the police can seem a far-away presence: call-out times are 15 to 30 minutes. The property itself, despite the new front fence, does not appear secure (from the back it looks a positive sieve). It is hard to believe that this could be the best accommodation for this man in England.

"Why isn't he put in a prison?" demands a villager. But you cannot put a free man in prison. And while the Government has introduced, and continues to introduce, ways to control the movements of known paedophiles, the timing of Oliver's release means that some rules do not apply to him. He has to go somewhere, and the Home Office thinks it makes sense for that to be a small community where he will be highly visible. It is a case of vigilant, not vigilante, justice. "Do you want to go back to the previous system where somebody walked out and lived in a community and no one knew?" asks Alun Michael.

The local MP is Alan Duncan and there is a certain irony in this. He is a Tory who is in favour of the death penalty for the likes of Oliver but who now finds himself spending hours organising this man's move to his own constituency. On one side he has the Home Office pulling a moral (and suddenly bipartisan) string. On the other are his angry constituents. In the middle is the trim and fast talking figure of Mr Duncan.

At the end of the day this is a massive moral decision. All moral decisions are about a particular shade of grey: never

about black and white," he says. "Anybody who just says, 'Oh but the law should be different', is evading the moral decision."

Mr Duncan is now knee-deep in grey. He has accepted that Mr Oliver has to go somewhere and, if it is going to be Wing Grange, he is making sure standards are as high as possible. After a tour of the hostel last Friday he is insisting on another £100,000 for security arrangements, a monthly visit from the Home Office and a liaison group between the Grange and the village. "I still hope that maybe we set such tough conditions that Robert Oliver himself won't agree to come to Wing Grange," he says.

In his dreams. "It is highly likely that [Oliver] will go there. We took the decision in principle some time ago," said Alun Michael. The villagers know this. More meetings are planned and Oliver's arrival dates buzz round like bumblebees. The latest rumour is next week. The villagers still hope they can stop him. After all, they say, this is supposed to be a democracy. But they also believe democracy has failed them.

One neighbour of Wing Grange has erected a "Private House" sign on his front gate. I'm not sure that is going to stop a firebomb. His dog named Bruce thumps his tail as I approach. "Bruce is in charge of security but it's too bloody hot," he says. But this is not as hot as it gets in Wing. We will only know that when Robert Oliver moves into his new home on this shady country lane in the middle of nowhere.



INSIDE	Letters	2	Features	8-9	Design	12-13	Law	20	LAW
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Science	10	Architecture	14	Listings, radio	21-23	
	Obituaries	6-7	Arts	11	Music	15-19	Today's TV	24	

CWS FACT
No 25

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A family of businesses

Falling off the joke cycle

THE WAYS of the media and showbiz are hard to understand. How often, as we watch television, does the question occur to us: "Why have they made that programme?" or "Why am I watching it?" or even "What is on the other side?"

We may also find ourselves asking more technical questions about the world of TV, such as:

"Why does someone not take David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, lash the pair of them to the big hand of Big Ben with heavy duty garden twine and leave them there for a few days?"

The only person who can give an in-depth answer to all those questions is veteran television and showbiz expert Nat West, and it is wonderful to have him back here again to handle all of your queries, so a VERY big hand please



MILES KINGTON

Media expert Nat West explains why BR sandwiches are still funny

for the one and only, the incredible...

Nat West writes: Yeah, yeah, very sarcastic, thanks a million, look, I have not got long. I have got to get to Basildon to conduct a seminar on "The Lloyd Webbers and their Marriages", so can we get cracking with the first query...

Why does someone not take David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, lash the pair of them to the big hand of Big Ben with heavy duty garden twine and leave them there for a few days?

Nat West writes: Because heavy duty garden twine has been banned by new EU regulations due to the dangers of using tar on string.

You would have to attach them to the big hand with heavy duty wire, I am afraid. And the next! Do not hang around. I have got to be in Basildon in a couple of hours to chair a seminar on "The Effect of the World Cup On The English Language".

What sort of effect is that? Nat West writes: Ruinous. In what sense?

Nat West writes: It stops people thinking. I was listening to Brian Moore on ITV before the Brazil v Holland match, and after the interminable national anthems were over he said:

"Right, the formalities are over and now it is just the handshakes and the team photographs."

What is wrong with that? Nat West writes: That is when people stop making jokes altogether, like they don't about Essex, or about Channel 4, or Gatwick...

Are you really going to all these seminars in Basildon?

Nat West writes: Course not. They are jokes. I am attempting to get the idea of seminars into the joke cycle.

But it is uphill work. I can tell you.

Nat West will be back soon. Keep those queries rolling in!

What is wrong with that?

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

THE INDEPENDENT Bigger and better

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

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The latest in this week's series celebrating 50 years of the NHS features a patient at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Paul's spine is cracked in three places and he wears a halo brace to help him walk. He is due to be released this week but must wear the brace for the next two months

Brian Harris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Place of the lobbyist

Sir: Although the brouhaha regarding cash for access is possibly the earliest manifestation of the "silly season" there are more serious underlying issues.

Let's get the silly season bit out of the way first. Derek Draper is a typical representative of the new generation in the public affairs world. However, in this particular case I believe he is a fall guy and that he was entrapped by journalists.

The underlying implications concern the regulation of lobbying. This activity is an essential part of the democratic process. The ability to plead a case on behalf of any individual, charity or business organisation is the cement in a sensible relationship between those who legislate and those who are affected by legislation.

The difference now is that, because of the exponential growth in legislation (both in Westminster and Brussels) over the past two decades or so, there has been an equal growth in the number of specialists who understand the process and assist in putting a case. This "industry" has grown unregulated and there are some who bring no credit to the practice both in and out of Parliament.

For many years an effective regulatory system has existed in Canada, recently enforced with the office of an Ethics Counsellor with powers to punish breaches of the law on the part of both lobbyists and office holders. Over the last two years similar regulatory regimes have been set up in Washington and Brussels.

Organisations such as the Institute of Public Relations and the Public Relations Consultants Association have recently brought in even more stringent rules governing their members' activities in this field, but they remain voluntary codes of practice.

Members of Parliament have consistently refused to acknowledge the need for regulation. When the subject was last brought up in the Select Committee on Members' Interests a majority decided that a decision in principle should be taken to establish a register of professional lobbyists. In considering the report the House did not support the recommendation, preferring to rely on self-regulation.

We have now seen the stupidity of this opinion. Regulation along lines long ago established in other major democracies is needed in the UK more than ever before.

JOHN W CLARKE
Clarke Burch Associates
Longfield, Kent

Sir: It is worth remembering that not all lobbying is carried out by cynical paid lobbyists at the behest of big business. Most charities of any size include an element of lobbying in their work, seeking to change rules or extract government cash on behalf of their "clients".

Much of this work, too, is done by professionals (though much less well-paid ones), but there is also a significant amount done by volunteers, for nothing. This is democracy at its best, working the way it is supposed to work. It gives MPs and ministers an opportunity to

remember their own vision of the way the world could be, a vision which is usually the reason they went into politics in the first place, but which may have dimmed under the pressures of the other kind of lobbying.

BILL LINTON
London N13

Sir: Press officers have huge power. Policy is leaked, bypassing Parliament. Civil servants are brushed aside for political placemen. Blairites and Brownites undermine each other like Versailles courtiers. Labour campaign staff take lucrative jobs with lobby companies. The Prime Minister halves his Question Times, preferring to tell jokes to Des O'Connor, comment on the football and write for The Sun.

I voted Labour for integrity, open government and freedom of information. That seems an awfully long time ago now.

LARRY RUSHTON
Piddington,
Northamptonshire

Sir: Ken Livingstone maintains his preference for inverting fact and logic. It was the "SDP renegades" he asserts ("Welcome to the ideology-free world of the New Labour lobbyist", 8 July) who kept Labour out of office for two decades.

The truth is that Labour was made unelectable by the dominance of Ken Livingstone's left. It was when the Labour Party adopted the SDP's defence policy, its approach to economic and social policy and finally the greater part of the SDP's constitution, that it won an election with the biggest majority of any single party since the Liberal victory of 1906.

PAUL N ROSSI
London SE15

Defence of what?

Sir: In your leading article of 9 July on the Strategic Defence Review you quite rightly pose the key question of "where and with whom" our forces will be deployed. The reason that question remains unanswered is that the Government has failed to make clear the foreign policy objectives which our armed forces are supposed to support. In a White Paper allegedly foreign-policy led the reader has to search diligently for any references to foreign policy at all.

It is a matter of considerable concern that a government that rightly wishes to play a leading role in Europe should make such scant reference both in the White Paper and in the Defence Secretary's statement to the House of Commons to the opportunities for security and defence co-operation in Europe. The White Paper nowhere considers the relationship between the British review and the review currently being carried out in Nato of the Alliance's own Strategic Concept.

The British review proposes to restructure the British forces in such a manner as to enable the operation of an "expeditionary strategy". This is understood to mean the ability to transport forces of all three services quickly and efficiently to areas of conflict in the world and to support and sustain

them once they are there. This is a logical restructuring which is much more consistent with likely demands than the static strategy which served us in the Cold War in Europe.

But loose language of "global responsibilities" and suchlike should put us on our guard. There should be no automatic assumption that the UK should, in all parts of the world, underpin the United States foreign policy. In many cases it will be in our interests to do so. There may even be a presumption that we will do so, but we must remain the judges of when it is appropriate.

Where our forces will be deployed and in what context in the future is hard to predict. The review has provided inadequate signposts. The conclusions of the review would have been clearer and its results more relevant if we knew the foreign policy objectives which our forces will be called upon to support.

MENZIES CAMPELL MP
Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Foreign Affairs and Defence House of Commons
London SW1

Child refugees

Sir: We do not doubt the intention of Mike O'Brien, the Home Office minister, that no refugees under 18 should be detained knowingly (letter, 9 July). Our concern is that the Immigration Service does not implement the policy the way he intends.

Two young detainees were among the nine asylum seekers who were acquitted recently of charges of rioting at Campfield House in Oxfordshire, following the collapse of the trial last month. Both detainees said they were minors and were treated as such by the criminal justice system - yet the Immigration Service refused to accept their claims.

We have suggested that independent evidence from paediatricians should be used in cases where the age of a detainee is in dispute. The minister has stated that he does not want to detain young people under 18 and he always gives the benefit of the doubt. Will he therefore now agree to accept independent reports of paediatricians and release young people from detention immediately when these reports throw doubts on someone's age?

NICK HARDWICK
Chief Executive
The Refugee Council
London SW8

Sir: It may well be that the Government does not "knowingly" detain anyone under the age of 18, but children seeking asylum in the UK, some as young as 13, whose age is in dispute have been held in detention. The reason why young people may (unknowingly) be detained derives directly from current restrictive policies on access to the UK's asylum procedure. Their ages are uncertain because they are forced to travel on false documents as a result of the Government's own visa requirements and carriers' liability sanctions.

Amnesty International has repeatedly drawn this issue to the

attention of the Government. We welcome the minister's assurances (letter, 9 July) but are concerned that they conflict with advice obtained from Immigration Service headquarters that children will be detained in exceptional circumstances where there is considered to be a risk of absconding.

The detention of children under 18 seeking asylum in the UK contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of Child and there is no age provision made for them in any detention facility. Amnesty International again calls on the Government to stop the detention of child asylum-seekers and to remove the restrictions which force them to use false documents.

JAN SHAW
Refugee Officer
Amnesty International
London EC1

*Mr O'Brien's letter, as published yesterday, contained the sentence "We do not knowingly detain anyone under the age of 18." This should have read "... under the age of 16".

Inflation and growth

Sir: You argue (leading article, 7 July) urgently for an expansion in the brief given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Monetary Policy Committee. This would, you hope, let growth be considered on equal terms with inflation. But the present recession cannot be laid solely at the doors of the Monetary Policy Committee. It is as much due to the decision of the Chancellor not to use fiscal policy for short-run demand management. Indeed, I recall arguing in these columns last year soon after the Budget that the failure by the Chancellor to squeeze out consumer spending would lead to a recession in the second half of 1998. As predicted, it has arrived.

The Chancellor left the MPC with the sole responsibility of controlling inflation as well as implicitly short-run demand management. Alas, the MPC has only one instrument - interest rates. It cannot, even with the best will in the world, hit two targets.

LORD DESAI
House of Lords

In-flight vegetarians

Sir: Laura Thompson's description of the reaction to a request for an in-flight vegetarian meal as "a glazed stare" must have rung bells with vegetarians worldwide ("Chicken or teeth, sir?", 7 July).

I have found the attitude to be the same despite stating "vegetarian" on the booking form, at the check-in and at every other face-to-face contact with airline staff.

The only three times I haven't been accused of not ordering vegetarian, I have been given vegan, sugar-free, carbohydrate-free, fat-free, taste-free food on American airlines; offered a wheelchair as well on Cyprus airlines; and had my carnivore husband classified vegetarian on an Australian flight.

Turkish Cypriot flight staff are always surprised but come up with

the goods eventually. Cuban airlines offered me the captain's cheese sandwich and Aeroflot a very puzzled look and what looked like an omelette. Monarch gave me a hands-on hip confrontation reminder that I had really ordered "diabetic".

I feel that we veggies now constitute a sufficient proportion of the travelling public to deserve better treatment from the airlines and hope the "glazed stare" will become a thing of the past.

MARGARET V DARMODY
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Railtrack sell-off

Sir: Railtrack will not make £600m in profits from the sale of leases on the non-operational land at Broadgate, as David Chidgey suggests (letter, 9 July). The leases have an estimated value of around £120m and the way in which Railtrack is currently regulated ensures that 25 per cent of property profits over an agreed level will be returned to the regulator.

Of the profits made by Railtrack, only around 30 per cent is distributed to shareholders as dividend. The remainder is reinvested in the railway or returned to government in taxation.

Mr Chidgey should be pleased that the value of office leases is being realised to help fund Railtrack's massive investment programme of £17bn over the next ten years.

PHILIP DEWHURST
Director, Corporate Affairs
Railtrack plc
London NW1

IN BRIEF

Sir: In Charlotte O'Sullivan's article about writing for *The Simpsons* (23 June) she quoted me - accurately. I'm afraid - as saying there were no women on the show's writing staff. While the staff has occasionally been all-male, Julie Thacker has been a writer-producer on the show for well over a year. And I returned from my trip to London to find that another female writer, Carolyn Omine, had joined us. Thank you for letting me correct my boneheaded error. I hope nothing I said will be taken to mean that women are unwelcome on our staff.

IAN MAXTONE-GRAHAM
Los Angeles

Sir: I am not a racist. I believe in opportunity for all and despise many of the attitudes displayed at the Lawrence investigation. But I am at a loss to know why Linda Belles (Letters, 4 July) insists on punctuating "Blacks" with a capital "B" but reserves the lower-case "w" for "whites". Equal typography for all, say I.

HUGH ROMAN
Sudbury, Suffolk

Sir: Your leading article "Time to dethrone the Church of England" (9 July) provokes me to protest, as a sincere antidisestablishmentarianist, that the severance of church from state which you are suggesting would deprive all 11-year-olds of their traditional longest word.

HAROLD G STONE
Wareham, Dorset

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A decision taken in the interests of ordinary people

THE DECISION not to raise interest rates yesterday was a positive one, not a neutral decision, and should be welcomed. Earlier this week, we argued that the terms of reference of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee should be widened, beyond the simple aim of keeping down inflation, to take employment and the sustainability of growth into account. There may well be no satisfactory form of words by which this might be done, but the committee's decision yesterday suggests that it takes a broader view of its remit in practice than it should in theory.

Because if it took a strict view of its objective of price stability - defined as a target inflation rate of 2.5 per cent - it would certainly put interest rates up. Average earnings are now rising at 5.2 per cent and underlying inflation, already at 3.2 per cent, is likely to go more than one percentage point above the target over the next few months. If it does, Eddie George, the Bank governor, has to write a letter to the Chancellor - something along the lines of "I will not miss my inflation target again", 100 times.

If inflation really was all that mattered, the committee should drive Britain ruthlessly into recession, because the rate of inflation is asymmetrical: it goes up more easily than it goes down. The best way to ensure that it stays in the target range would be to risk it being too low rather than too high. Even in recession, our inflation rate has not gone below 1.5 per cent in 30 years.

Fortunately, the committee is more in touch with the real economy than that, and seems to be operating - as the Federal Reserve does in the United States - according to the unwritten rules of a broader economic policy. It seems to put real people and their jobs above sharp swings in policy. For the moment, then, let us praise Mr George and his colleagues. But this is contingent praise in a finely balanced situation.

Depending on where precisely the committee draws the line between a broad and a narrow interpretation of its brief, the danger remains of an interest rate rise in August. It should be urged: keep it broad. In the broader picture, the danger of recession is greater than that of a runaway inflationary "blip". The committee's remit is too narrow, in that it is impossible to steer a modern, slow-responding economy without touching the sides of an inflation range of 1.5-3.5 per cent. But it is also too narrow in that it is provided with one club - interest rates - to hit its one target.

One of the drawbacks of making the Bank of England



independent - desirable though that was - is that it has narrowed the terms of political debate over the state of the economy. In the place of rumbustious debate on the floor of the House of Commons, with the Chancellor required to defend economic policy across the board, Mr George gives evidence to a quiet select committee upstairs on the narrow question of inflation. The closest we have had to a wider economic debate in the Commons recently has been when the Prime Minister was asked by Paddy Ashdown to commit himself more explicitly to joining the single European currency. Such a declaration would cut interest rates and the value of the pound at a stroke, but Mr Blair rightly rejected the

idea of using a long-term objective to fix short-term economic problems.

Meanwhile, journalists - and we plead guilty, too - have tended to focus too closely on the story of "hawks" versus "doves" on the monetary policy committee, trawling through the minutes of the meeting before last. It would be a small step forward to publish the minutes immediately after the meetings - as hinted at by the Chancellor's adviser, Edward Balls, in this newspaper last month. A greater step forward would be for Gordon Brown to lead a debate on the economy in parliament, in order to broaden the context in which the committee makes its next decision on the interest rate.

Sudden change for the better?

MOSHOD ABIOLA'S death in prison is both the worst and in a perverse way the best thing that could have happened to Nigeria. Best, because the 60-year-old Abiola's sudden death has proved to be the one event that has forced the ruling military junta to face the impossibility of continuing the rule by generals that has laid the country so low.

Should the autopsy prove that he was murdered, of course, then the result will be mayhem as his followers take revenge, and martial law will be instituted once more. But his jailers obviously feel that the tests will prove the conspiracy theorists wrong (otherwise they would not have invited international doctors to perform the autopsy) and are ready to announce some kind of plan for a return to civilian rule. Before Wednesday's crisis, that was by no means the case.

Yet Abiola's death is also a tragedy in that he was the man most capable of keeping the country together as a civilian president. Given the pressures of north versus south, the resentments of the Ogana people, the conflicts between Muslim and Christian, it may well prove impossible to keep the country together. There is no absolute reason for anyone outside, let alone inside, to defend its federalism as such. We have learned enough from Rwanda and Burundi not to view the prospect of tribal conflict with equanimity.

Which is why General Abubakar deserves some support and patience from Britain and the US. A week ago it seemed right to demand Abiola's release without conditions. The General needs support, as well as persistent pressure, to keep the temperature down. The move to civilian rule has to be absolute, and have a clear timetable. The generals must give up all power. But, given that, Britain's role should be that of the committed friend, not the critical onlooker.

Heart of the matter

IT IS QUITE normal for people to say they are suffering some minor ailment when they have gone into hospital for a serious operation, so no one should complain that William Hague invented some cock-and-bull story about his sinuses. It is obvious now that he really had a heart transplant, so vigorous and articulate was his use of his one chance to hold the Prime Minister to account this week.

If this means that the Conservatives are back as a real party of opposition, this is excellent news for the health of our parliamentary democracy.

There's a right way and a wrong way to pay off your political debts

SOMETIMES THE counter-intuitive happens. One minute William Hague is languishing in his sick bed, provoking not very sotto voce complaints that he is a wimp. The next minute he has the triumph that every politician longs for: making both sides of the Commons laugh at his opponents' expense. The earth moved a little in Parliament last week, perhaps for the first time since the election. And that is something Tony Blair can't ignore.

Some of what needs to be done is relatively simple. The new rules hastily being drawn up by Sir Richard Wilson to govern relations between lobbyists and government need to be a lot stricter than the lobbyists are, no doubt, expecting them to be. Since the scandal over the lobbying activities of Ian Greer, who boasted that he had MPs queuing up like taxis at a rank to do favours for cash, the focus of lobbying companies has switched away from Westminster. It would be nice to think that was only because of embarrassment; it actually had at least as much to do with the fact that, with a government enjoying a huge majority, MPs no longer hold the sway they used to.

There is a not much point in swarming round a meeting - say of the standing committee on a gas deregulation bill - if the votes are already in the bag. This is why the lobbying companies are even more interested than they were in their contacts with political advisers, civil servants, and ministers - and some of those more than others.

Those in government who think that the clever young men who worked on Labour's election cam-

paign and traded in their experience for good salaries in the lobbying industry are still owed a debt are wrong. The debt was discharged by the very fact that they were able to get such jobs. Having taken that choice - a rather Thatcherite choice, one might think - they are now on their own.

Only one or two, Colin Byrne of Shandwick, say, or David Hill of Lowe Bell, could say they were hired for their track records in presentation or political management. Most, let's be frank, were hired for their contacts in the administration. Which means the rules governing their relations with those contacts need to be strict - and probably statutory.

But that's only a start. Lobbyists are not alone in seeking to bring their influence to bear on every level of government.

If Robert Ayling, the chairman of British Airways, has a minor problem, he doesn't have to hire a lobbyist or even telephone his friend the Prime Minister. He can ring up the relevant Deputy Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, a department he happens to know personally from the inside. To point this out is not to suggest that businessmen don't have the right to make their case; but it does mean that we ought to know a lot more about how they do it.

The vigorous Freedom of Information Bill the government promised but has still failed to deliver would help. And, if there is a persuasive case against Lord Neill reviewing the whole subject of business access to government as an adjunct to his enquiry into party funding, I have yet to hear it.



DONALD MACINTYRE

It's time for Tony Blair to do some old-fashioned things - like making his party feel they count again

All this matters because so much of the business of modern government affects profits or stock market values. Many of the biggest decisions, the ones which occupy most ministerial time and argument, seldom leave the business pages of the newspapers. And they have huge public interest as well as commercial importance. But, even if the Government were to take all these steps, it would not quite deal with the sour aftermath left by this week's events.

In the fashionable version Peter Mandelson is the root of all evil. Here I have to offer a health warning - and a confession. I do speak to Peter Mandelson from time to time - along with quite a lot of other politicians. Last week I was identified by the *Daily Mail* of being a "Mandelson muppet" on the grounds that I am

writing a book about him and the Labour Party which is "authorised" - which it isn't.

I happen to think that Mandelson was loyal but unwise to agree to speak at an event arranged by Derek Draper's lobbying company. Mandelson does not. I also think that he should - and, though Blair hasn't made up his mind yet, most probably now will - go off to a departmental job which takes him away from the centre of power and gives him something to do apart from fixing and enforcing on behalf of Blair.

But you don't have to be a muppet to think that the problem goes rather beyond Mandelson's own personality. This is not just for the relatively trivial reason that he was far from alone in doing what he did. Important people in the Treasury as well as the Number 10 policy unit also enjoyed cordial relations with Draper and the company he used to belong to until he fell. Mandelson may symbolise, but he does not on his own cause, the sense of exclusion now increasingly rampant in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Quite a lot of the same sort of people who used to feel enraged when Harold Wilson or Denis Healey had to break off a meeting with MPs to go and sit at the feet of - say - Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union feel the same sense of frustration that there are a group of businessmen and outsiders - some of them a lot more famous at the end of this week than they were at the beginning of it - enjoying a level of access to the centre of power which they can only dream of. The echo of Draper's boast, however dubious, that there is

a circle of 17 "people who count" in Britain will resound far longer, I suspect, than the issues of business influence, important as they are, raised this week.

Some of these are good people, unglamorous people, who may not be in the vanguard of New Labour, but who nevertheless fought hard, against overwhelming odds, to keep their party decent and sane in the 1980s and now feel that the umbilical cord which should connect them to the centre is close to breaking.

To deal with this is not as easy as it sounds. Part of it is trying to make some real sense of Cabinet government - which to be fair, woefully declined under Margaret Thatcher. There also isn't enough for a lot of these people to do, which is one reason why the poison of subterranean, ideology-free, Blairite-vs-Brownite conflict has been traceable in the bloodstream of parts of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The steps being taken to "modernise" Parliament entirely miss the point, which should be to make it important again (more relevant are the detailed ideas like that of the Tory chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, David Davis, for giving select committees the chance to express a view on the allocation of resources within departmental budgets).

This Government has made a fetish about being New in every aspect. It is time for Tony Blair to do some old-fashioned things - like make his wider party feel that they count again. These people may owe him a huge debt; but he owes something to them too.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We can, if we wish, put our minds to paralysing this country in a matter of hours."
David McNarry,
an Orange Order leader

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so."
John Stuart Mill,
English philosopher and economist

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MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

French verdicts on their World Cup success



"WE WANTED it. We dreamt of it. We got it. Yesterday night the French football team at last qualified for a World Cup final against Croatia. It wasn't exactly easy. It was mainly thanks to Thuram. But we've done it! But Sunday, day of the final, isn't Wednesday and Brazil isn't Croatia. Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Bebeto and pals play a football of defence, attack and enjoyment on a grand scale. Nevertheless, the current champions of the world are now the only obstacle between France and their Valhalla."
Gérard Thomas, *Liberation*

"Nothing's impossible for a Frenchman. The proof - they've done it. Zidane, the magician, Deschamps, the courageous captain, Trezeguet and Henry the kids, Blanc, banished from the final show-down. Not to mention everyone else. It was the final or nothing, or shame for the French."

On Sunday France is at last to take a leading role on planet football. Confronted with the superhuman Brazilians, this could well be the end of the fairy tale. But for the time being the story which has, against every expectation, impressed the

young and the old of our country of both sexes and all origins, continues. We follow them with welling eyes.

And on their shoulders they will carry the pride of an entire nation."
Yves Thériault, *France Soir*

"INCREDIBLE, unbelievable. Aimé Jacquet and his idiosyncratic team yesterday became football legend at the Saint Denis stadium. They are the first Tricolours to ever reach a World Cup Final. France is in its own final and will challenge

the World Cup throne on Sunday. The inner light this tremendous team carries must on Sunday shine brightly at the Stade de France with a World Cup brandished high in the Parisian sky."
Jean-Christophe Papillon, *Le Figaro*

"FRANCE HAS discovered, over the course of these last few weeks, that football is the perfect opportunity for her people to come together no matter where they are born, what colour their skin is and whatever anyone thinks to the con-

trary, and enjoy themselves. This World Cup has also (above all) reminded those people who constantly forget that this country is a marvel and that we can do great things with her."
Jerome Bureau, *L'Equipe*

WE ARE in the final. And the final of the World Cup is a strange place, almost inaccessible, forbidden to amateurs. It is a mythical place, a heaven on earth where any child with a little imagination hopes to walk one day. It isn't an end. It is the end of a voyage of dreams."
Pierre Georgis, *Le Monde*

No need to fake it any longer



SUZANNE MOORE

Viagra, the greatest sexual liberator since the contraceptive pill? Give me a break

A LONG, long, time ago I found myself working in a health food store in Manhattan. I used to sell over-priced vitamins to anyone who would have them, herbal "cures" to perk people up and tins of dietary supplements that body-builders use to bulk up with. As the body-builders, mostly huge Puerto Rican guys, were paying for their tins of powdered protein, they used to give me a wink and ask if I had anything for their wives, something for the weekend.

"What sort of thing, sir?"
"Oh, you know, something to make it better... to make her like it more."

If these guys' girlfriends did not enjoy having sex with them, then there was clearly something wrong with these women that the guys appeared to believe could be cured chemically. I used to get away with selling them mega-doses of Vitamin C and some herbal remedy that was said to be "natural cocaine".

Those were the days. For now there really is a wonder drug that makes sex better for everyone. Men, women and goats. And guess what? It is not Viagra. Viagra comes full of breathy promise. Yes, Yes, Yes... oh Yes, as Molly Bloom might say. Yes! Yes! Yes! pants *The Mirror*, "Viagra works for women, too. You'll enjoy it more than men: and it's here in September".

So men's demand for Viagra, which is said to be so great that it may bankrupt the Health Service, will be replicated by women. This conjures up wonderful visions of female sex zombies clamouring for this Nineties version of "mother's little helpers", these little blue diamonds that will so enhance their sex lives. Whatever else rises, so presumably will shares in Pfizer, the company who distribute Viagra.

But before we get so carried away, shouldn't we be asking ourselves just what we are being asked to swallow alongside these jagged little pills?

There are a number of problems here. The first is the coyness of the reporting about what Viagra actually does. We know what it does for men. We are allowed to use words such as impotence and "penile dysfunction". Indeed the name of the drug itself, sildenafil, has been



Meg Ryan famously proved that women can fake orgasms in 'When Harry Met Sally'

renamed to suggest both virility and a Niagara Falls of sexual pleasure.

What the drug does for women is less obvious, possibly because its effects are ingeniously described in vague phrases such as "genital area". We still apparently have to avoid the word "clitoris" and as long as the clitoris is avoidable, I'm afraid no drug in the world is going to produce the desired effect.

Much of what I have read, though promising to liberate women, is in fact an old, male fantasy. "Can't come, won't come" we could call it. The man has no problem, the woman does, and her lack of enjoyment is spoiling it for both of them. The old solution was faking it, the new one is to pop her a pill and scrape her off the ceiling. This removes all that nonsense about foreplay, technique or even desire. Viagra - the Nineties version of Spanish fly - slip it into her drink and the woman who usually pretends to have a headache will go crazy. Unfortunately, she may end up with a real headache since this, alongside blurred vision, can be a side-effect of this wonder drug.

We are very confused, are we not,

about women and sex? While the excitement over Viagra rekindles the myth that men want sex all the time and women never do, except when drugged, we also read of a generation of pint-swilling lads who are constantly up for it.

These perfectly normal young women, who like a drink, a fag and a fast car, are being presented as freakish. Their amazing "confessions" that they are not preoccupied solely with ironing and doing the dishes are seen as newsworthy. The old double standards continue. Independent single women who say they like sex are presented as voracious; young single men who say they like sex are entirely ordinary.

Yet both sexes now demand sexual satisfaction as though it were their god-given right. A good sex life is now compulsory and Tessa Jowell will doubtless steer us towards one with some new government guidelines.

It is no longer enough just to have sex; we must have good sex, very often, in order to be in peak physical and mental health. The whole range of human sexual experience has now been reduced to the status

of a work-out, a bonk, a shag. Sex is now so good for you that everyone yearns for the days when it was really bad for you - when sex was dirty, dark and dangerous instead of being a clean and fun way of reducing stress and burning up calories at the same time.

The idea that, in order for everything to function normally, we have to load ourselves up with drugs, is very funny. Drugs, of course, are often used to enhance sexual performance and pleasure, yet no one is suggesting that ecstasy and amyl nitrate be available on the NHS. Some people get in the mood with a nice bottle of wine. Perhaps that, too, should be available on prescription.

However, while I thought that getting in the mood depended on emotional and psychological as well as physical factors, I now understand that it is very simple. Men and women need to move more blood into the pelvic area".

It's all so mechanical - or is that a girly thing to say? While male sexuality is portrayed as a question of hydraulics, female sexuality is still seen as far more complicated. It

isn't that complicated, but the complexities of female sexual response are not ones that the Viagra debate has brought to the surface. Why? Because Viagra promises to provide men with what they think is of the utmost importance. Erections, any time any place.

Viagra not only enhances our sex lives; it reinforces the age-old view that penetration is the be-all and end-all of sex. I am not denying that impotence is a real problem causing pain for both men and women, yet for many years we have known that many women do not climax through penetration alone. This is what the Hite report was all about.

Viagra cannot make people want to have sex if they do not already want to. It cannot make people fancy someone they do not fancy, and it cannot, despite the claims, turn lousy lovers into great ones. Nor, as yet, is there a wonder drug that stops couples getting sexually bored with each other.

The problem of women unable to achieve orgasm is not merely one of arousal. To reduce all this to a simple question of blood flow is rather depressing. The Sun doctor,

Rosemary Leonard, informs us that "Viagra could help some women achieve orgasm. It could mean men would have to work less hard to give them pleasure."

So this is what is being hailed as the greatest sexual liberator for women since the contraceptive pill? Something that means that men have to perform less rather than more? Give me a break.

Still, doctors are warning us that once women get hold of this drug there will be no stopping them. Already in America, women are assuming male identities on the Internet in order to obtain the drug. If women can't get it officially, it is assumed that there will be a thriving black market for Viagra.

I wonder if any of us will be able to have sex again without dropping a diamond. How have we managed to muddle along so far? Maybe it's just me, but when orgasms become mandatory, it's enough to make you wish for the old excuse. "Not tonight, darling. I've got a headache." I suppose this will no longer do. Now men and women will have to turn to each and whisper "Not tonight, love. I'm drug-free."

RIGHT OF REPLY

ROBERT SANDALL



The head of public relations for Virgin Records argues that stadium rock is still alive

IF YOU believe the pundits, rock'n'roll has spent much of its short life on death row, but David Thomas has a point: disappointing ticket sales for big outdoor concerts do raise the possibility that the era of stadium rock ushered in by Live Aid may finally be sinking in a sea of mud, dodgy burger stands and inadequate toilet facilities. Other indicators, however, suggest that afro-concert-goers are not being offered what they want to see. Pop, I propose, is the new rock'n'roll.

Last Sunday, 100,000 fans - an audience as large as Glastonbury - thronged Hyde Park to watch top pop acts bouncing on and off the stage to perform a maximum of five songs each. The possibility of getting crushed against the barriers at the front did not deter the youthful supporters of Boyzone, and nobody minded craning their necks for a view of Natalie Imbruglia.

While rock fans are clearly being overfed with opportunities to glimpse glum ironists like Pulp twitching in the distance, pop kids jump at the chance of standing within a quarter of a mile of their idols. Take the Spice Girls. Having played a couple of dozen arena shows in the spring, the group decided - against the advice of older rock types - to play some British stadium dates. The result was sold-out concerts at Wembley and Don Valley, Sheffield. As Jim Morrison once put it, "The men don't know but the little girls understand."

Some have started to catch on. Lurking on the bill at last Sunday's postapocalyptic party in the Park were the rockers Del Amitri and the American country band the Mavericks. It wasn't clear whether they were there to capture young converts, or to comfort the parents. Either way it was good, if strange, to see them investing in the future of stadium pop.

Observing the sons of Ulster

IRISH REPUBLICANS kill our soldiers, wreck our capital city, and murder our politicians. Ulster unionists oppose Irish republicanism. On the principle that my enemy's enemy is my friend, we might expect unionists to fare well in press and television coverage. Alan Parkinson analyses 26 years of journalism to prove that supposition wrong.

The unionist cause is often ignored. Over the period, *Panorama* made 26 films about nationalists and only 14 about the larger unionist population. The desire to expose wrongdoing in high places means that much reporting is critical of the state; because unionists are pro-state, that reporting does unionism no favours. When programmes report on social issues such as poverty, they show nationalist poverty and thus leave the impression that Northern Ireland's Protestants are a privileged "aristocracy of labour".

The general drift of most English journalism is "a pox on both your houses". Terrorism (especially when it happens in England) is bad; peace process is good. Compromise is good; unionists are bad because they will not compromise. Twenty years of professional interest in Northern Ireland persuades me that, by and large, Parkinson is right in his description of media attitudes. But what explains them?

Unionists must take some of the blame. When they ruled Northern Ireland, they did not need to persuade. When they were displaced, they did not believe they could persuade and so did not try. Internal divisions do not help. Ian Paisley's attacks on other unionist leaders may be motivated by high principle but can be read as a mark of group pathology: intransigent and bloody-minded.

Until recently, unionists failed to separate clearly the constitutional issue from ethnic interest. The desire



FRIDAY BOOK

ULSTER LOYALISM AND THE BRITISH MEDIA
BY ALAN F. PARKINSON. FOUR COURTS PRESS. £14.95

to remain part of the UK, in public perception, got mixed up with being beastly to Catholics. Unionists could have moved faster to reform the old Stormont and been a bit more particular about which changes they opposed.

While Parkinson is good at conveying unionism's combination of dogmatism and dog-in-the-manger attitude, he is less informative about the attitudes of those who work in the media. The weakness of this study is that, by analysing programme and newspaper content, it can show media bias, but that method can tell us little about the motives of pro-

ducers. Detailed interviews with journalists and editors would have been more revealing.

Parkinson not only misses what should be a central plank of any explanation of media attitudes towards unionism; he also, by a mistake in his title, inadvertently draws our attention to one cause of those attitudes. Parkinson has studied the English press and television but describes his subject as the British media. Such slipshod is common in everyday speech but from an academic it suggests a failure to appreciate the nature of the British state.

To understand both Ulster union-



A recent Orange Order parade at Drumcree

ists and the English journalists who find them so uncongenial, we need to appreciate the object of unionist loyalty. What gives Ulster Protestants their sense of identity, and explains why the English do not like them, is the Empire.

The Britain to which Paisley is loyal is the one whose missionaries spread evangelical Protestantism, whose civil servants brought order to "backward" races, whose shipyards and factories made the world's machines, and whose soldiers fought in two world wars for freedom.

The English may think of the Empire as theirs, but the peripheral nations of the United Kingdom were loyal to the Empire (and through it to the UK) because they saw it as an equal partnership in an heroic endeavour. Scots, Welsh and Ulster unionists were not wedded to the English but to a common purpose. The demise of that purpose has forced the peripheries to reconsider their commitment to the United Kingdom.

Unlike the Scots and Welsh, Ulster unionists have been prevented from loosening their ties to the UK by their own localised struggle with a hostile

population that already wishes that end. As a result they have turned the other way, to veneration of the symbols and rhetoric of what, at the time when the Sons of Ulster marched to death at the Somme, defined the United Kingdom.

The English "medians" dislike unionists on two grounds. Most immediately, they do not like the way they ran the Stormont regime. But in the background is a rarely stated dispute about the legacy and value of the Empire. The nostalgic attachment of Ulster Protestants to a world which the English intelligentsia would rather forget is an embarrassment; the Protestants remind them of what "British" once meant.

If we want to understand English attitudes to Ulster unionists, we need first to understand the English inability to live at peace with their own past.

The reviewer is professor of sociology at the University of Aberdeen and author of *The Edge of the Union: the Ulster Loyalist Political Vision*

STEVE BRUCE

FAMINE IN SUDAN

The situation in Sudan is worsening. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people, driven from their homes by the civil war, now face starvation.

The Red Cross is already providing emergency aid. But it's now clear that September's harvest will be badly disrupted by the civil war and late rains. The Sudanese urgently need tools and seeds to salvage their crops and feed their children. Only your donation can provide these vital supplies.

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Sir Charles Cunningham

FOR 40 years, from 1935 until 1974, Charles Cunningham was a considerable force at the centre of power in the British state. Few, if any, have spent 18 years in the pivotal position of Permanent Secretary: in Cunningham's case nine at the Scottish Office, followed by nine at the Home Office.

Just as, 30 years later, in the 1980s Margaret Thatcher, faced with the problem of imposing her ideas on the English legal establishment, chose a Scot, and outsider, James Mackay, later Lord Mackay of Clashfern, to implement her will, so R.A. Butler to get a grip of the Home Office chose a Scot, and outsider, Charles Cunningham, on the advice of James Stuart, Churchill's wartime Chief Whip and subsequently Secretary of State for Scotland. Cunningham had no inhibitions about getting a grip of the Home Office establishment. He was the ultimate civil service centraliser. A decade later, even Roy Jenkins was to find him formidable.

Charles Craik Cunningham was born in 1906 into a family of farmers and purveyors of farm machinery in Kilmuir in Co. Angus. After gaining many academic honours at Harris Academy, a rigorous school, he went to St Andrews University and gained first class honours in Classics.

Entering the Scottish Office in 1929 he soon rose to be Private Secretary to Colonel Sir Godfrey Collins, war hero of Gallipoli and Secretary of State. Cunningham all his life remembered the late-night stories that Collins would tell him of the suffering of the First World War, which was translated, both in the Civil Service during the Second World War and later in the Atomic Energy Authority, into an enormous concern for safety precautions.

In his next Secretary of State Cunningham was especially lucky. Colonel Walter Elliott, later to be Minister of Health, was one of the liveliest politicians of the day. Baroness Elliott of Harewood recalled that her husband thought that such an outstanding Private Secretary as Cunningham was one of the reasons for his success as a minister, before he left the Government with Anthony Eden on a matter of principle. Cunningham then served Sir John Colville, better known as Lord Clydesmuir, a major industrialist. From him Cunningham learnt a great deal about the steel industry.

During the Second World War he served in the Scottish Office and was immediately responsible for the aftermath of the destruction of Clydebank in 1941.

After the war he rose to the position of Permanent Secretary at the age of 42 having been the choice of Joseph Westwood, Clement Attlee's very working-class Secretary of State for Scotland. On Westwood's sudden death, Arthur Woodburn

was appointed and together with Cunningham faced all the problems of the Scottish Nationalists blowing up postal pillarboxes. Under the next Secretary of State, Hector McNeil, Cunningham was the Permanent Secretary who had to cope with the aftermath of the theft of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey. His was an intransigent hard line against the aspirations of both the young Nationalists and the not so young Wendy Wood, flamboyant leader of the Scottish Patriots.

I don't think any of us will ever know what Cunningham's personal politics may have been but the smoothest of transitions followed to James Stuart, Viscount Stuart of Fife, the first Conservative Secretary of State for Scotland. Stuart was content to leave most things to Cunningham, but was an ideal

Cunningham was no stick-in-the-mud. On the contrary, he was a high priest of the best of civil service tradition and rectitude

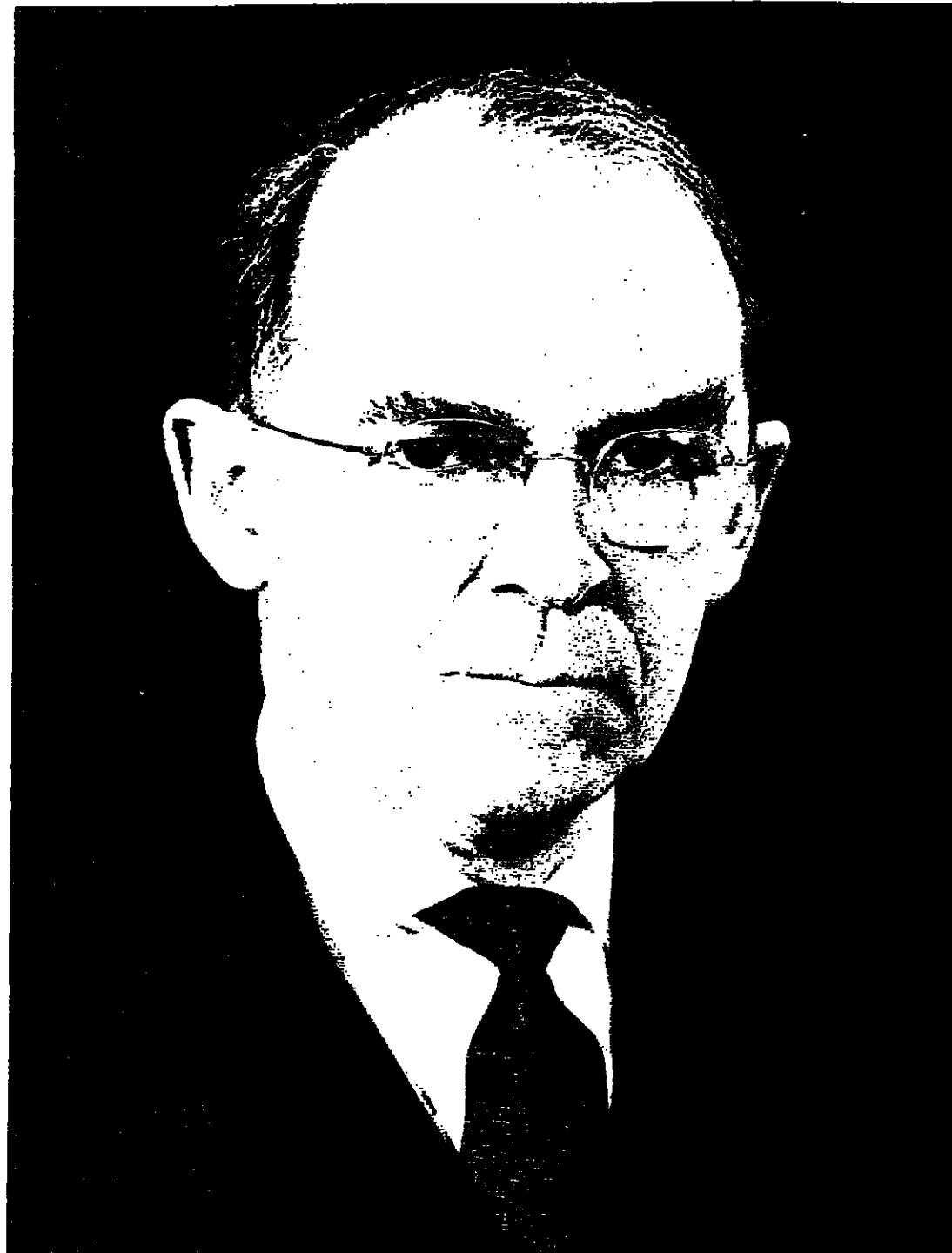
cabinet minister in the sense that he was one of the few men who could speak on equal and blunt terms to Churchill and was adept and successful in bringing back more than his share of resources to Scotland. Late in life Cunningham told me that his view of what a Permanent Secretary could achieve was very much shaped by the free hand that Stuart had given him.

In his beautifully written 1971 memoir *The Art of the Possible* Rab Butler recalls:

My Permanent Secretaries were Sir Frank Newsam and Sir Charles Cunningham. Some time before I arrived at the Department, Newsam had almost literally taken charge of the country on the occasion of the east coast floods, when he ordered the military about in the most efficient, albeit peremptory manner and secured achievements that would have surprised Canute. Cunningham, his successor, had made his name in Scotland and was very ready to make it in England and Wales. Like Lushington, Digby and others before the turn of the century, he was a great centraliser and signed every submission to me himself.

This was quite different from the procedures of the Foreign Office, where the young men submitted their views which were capped by their seniors. However, I certainly received excellent advice from Cunningham.

Although Butler remained at the Home Office until July 1962, he had



in March of that year as Home Secretary taken on responsibility for Central African affairs, which was the hottest political potato of the day when I arrived in the House of Commons in May 1962. Butler writes wryly:

Sir Charles Cunningham, the head of the office, regarded it as quite natural for the Home Secretary to be given this "residual problem". I found his view rather touching, even inspiring. The problem involved the livelihood and liberty of the expectations and emotions of nine million people, governed under what was at one and the same time the most ambitious and most anomalous of the Commonwealth improvisations of our rapidly evolving Commonwealth. This improvisation, dating from 1963, had tied together the self-governing settlers colony of Southern Rhodesia with the two African protectorates of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Ironically, during the accident-prone tenure of Henry Brooke, Butler's successor as Home Secretary, two of the most awkward problems concerned Africa - the scandal of Holar Camp following Mau Mau, and the case of Chief Enaharo from Nigeria which rocked British politics. Cunningham told me that he retained a lifelong interest in Africa and indeed his last real job was the Chairmanship of the Uganda Resettlement Board in 1972-73.

With the coming of the Wilson government in October 1964 Cunningham had no problems with the indecisive but extremely distinguished Labour QC Home Secretary Sir Frank Soskice, later Lord Stow Hill. However, things changed

in 1966. Roy Jenkins writes in his fascinating chapter "A Young Home Secretary" in his 1991 book *A Life at the Centre*:

By Monday 10 January, I felt I was ready (if I was ever going to be) for my high noon (it was actually 5.30pm) shoot-out with Sir Charles Cunningham. It was at once the most difficult and the most crucial encounter that I have ever had with any high-ranking civil servant.

Over the subsequent decades, despite a strong natural tendency to question my own judgement in retrospect, although happily not to falter much of the time, I have never varied in my view that on this occasion I was right. This is odd, for Cunningham was not only of the highest ability, he also had surprisingly liberal views and was rather a nice man. He had however become the guardian, not so much of particular Home Office policies, as of a certain Home Office approach to

life which I was convinced had to be broken if future Home Secretaries were to avoid the St Sebastian-like fate of Brooke and Soskice. An air of dutiful deceit had become the most appropriate demeanour for a Home Secretary. "For old Home Office," Soskice had mumbled on one file. "We are not always wrong but we always get the blame."

I was determined both for my own good and for that of the Home Office not to be the third victim of this system. The hostility that Jenkins aroused came from a central demand. Cunningham had introduced into the Home Office the most centralised system of submissions to the Secretary of State which can ever have been seen in Whitehall. Everything came on one or two sheets of thick blue paper, boiled down to a few hundred words of lucid explanation, concluding in a clear recommendation and boldly initialled "C.C.C."

Jenkins and Cunningham were chalk and cheese. He regarded Jenkins as an upstart and a poseur of a Home Secretary

Roy Jenkins concedes that it was a most formidable display of intellectual energy and control over the department, economical of the Home Secretary's time provided that the recommendations were accepted and did not too frequently blow up in his face.

But Jenkins thought it was not a system designed to allow the Home Secretary to weigh up different courses of action. No other course was outlined, there were no background documents from which an alternative could be devised, there was no indication whether or not there had been dissenting opinions as the file had made its way up through the various ranks of the hierarchy. All wrinkles had been smoothed away by the firm and skilled hands of the Permanent Secretary.

It was difficult to get any discussion going at a meeting of officials and thus to hear a case argued. From Jenkins's view it was very much a case of "Sir Charles locutus est, causa finita est".

By 1966, Roy Jenkins was not the only one to be irritated by Cunningham's set ways. In his diary for Friday 20 May 1966, Alec Cairncross, the distinguished economist, records that he took the Treasury Economic Consultant, A.H. Williams, to see Sir Charles Cunningham. Cunningham

thought that he might be able to tell them in a few days that there really was no point in having an economist in the Home Office. Cairncross acidly remarked that this was nonsense - and that an economist would soon point out that Borstals cost several times as much per head as Oxford colleges.

Such a situation could only end in tears. It did. But as Roy Jenkins ruefully explained they were tears, he discovered later, not of sorrow but of anger. In his later years in Edinburgh, Cunningham confirmed to me that they were tears of anger against what he regarded as an upstart and a poseur of a Home Secretary. Jenkins and Cunningham were chalk and cheese.

After prematurely being retired from the Home Office, Cunningham became Deputy Chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority and then Chairman of the Radio Chemical Centre at Amersham. I can only say at first hand that when he came before us at the Public Accounts Committee and then at the Select Committee on Science and Technology he was a very formidable and yet courteous witness.

It would be wrong to say that Cunningham was a stick-in-the-mud of the old school. On the contrary he was a high priest of the best of civil service tradition and rectitude. Yet it was rectitude encapsulating humanity. He told me that one of the things about which he had been most angry was the day Mrs Thatcher chose to make a statement in the House of Commons on Anthony Blunt.

"What possible purpose did it serve? The circumstances of relations with the Russians who were our allies during the war were very complicated. Was it necessary to humiliate the Keeper of the Queen's Pictures? If my successor Philip Allen could live with Blunt's past, so could Mrs Thatcher."

A few months ago when I last talked to Charles Cunningham he was as clear as a bell. However he would say that he was never the same man since his beloved wife of 56 years, Edith, died in 1990.

Tam Dalyell

Charles Craik Cunningham, civil servant: born Dundee 7 May 1906; Private Secretary to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland 1933-34, to Secretary of State for Scotland 1935-39; Assistant Secretary, Scottish Home Department 1939-41, Principal Assistant Secretary 1941-42, Deputy Secretary 1942-47, Secretary 1948-57; CB 1946, KCB 1961, GCB 1974; KBE 1952; Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Home Office 1957-66; Deputy Chairman, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority 1966-71; Chairman, Radiochemical Centre 1971-74; married 1934 Edith Webster (died 1990); two daughters; died Edinburgh 7 July 1998.



LEONARD FORMAN was Principal Scientific Officer in the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from 1966 until 1989.

He qualified at Queen Mary College, London University, in 1950. His early botanical career and his love for South East Asia were founded on a year based in the herbarium at Bogor on Sumatra in Indonesia, close to the famous botanical gardens.

On the journey out, he met Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West, who were on the same P & O liner to the Far East. The Nicols were in first class, and took pity on Forman. Harold Nicolson's printed comments about Forman in his 1957 book *Journey to Java* are very amusing, and although they could be construed by some as being offensive, Forman was clearly proud of them. From Bogor Forman travelled to Kalimantan and Sulawesi for plant collecting work.

He joined the staff of the herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1951, where he was made responsible for the Malayan areas. He became geographical officer for South East Asia and, in the botanical community, was famed for his widespread knowledge of South East Asian plants, and his contributions to the Flora of Malesia, the Flora of Thailand project, the Flora of Australia and La Flore de la Nouvelle Calédonie.

He produced several accounts for floras for the plant family Menispermaceae (the Menispermaceae, a family of mainly tropical climbers notable for their medicinal importance) in which he had particular expertise. His work on *Trigonostemon* should not be forgotten too. He took pains to be accurate and disliked what he considered to be shoddy or careless work.

He was co-ordinator of the Brunel Checklist Project in 1989-95, a collaborative project between Kew, the forest department of Brunei and Shell Brunei, which produced an annotated checklist of the approximately 4,000 species of plants and ferns. This is an essential aid to the conservation of Bornean forests and continues to help the enlightened management of this immensely rich flora.

In the latter part of his career and rather reluctantly, Forman accepted the appointment to the amusingly titled post of "Wing Commander" for Wing A in the Herbarium, housing over one million specimens and a host of varied plant families including the economically important Meliaceae (mahogany).

Forman was a meticulous curator, perhaps to the detriment of his research activities, and was zealous

about maintaining standards of curation. He formulated a curation policy in the Kew Herbarium reaching all those parts others don't normally reach. He also made important contributions to curation at the Linnean Society, being a Linnean Society member and a member of its curatorial committee from 1970 to 1985.

He was also interested in the historical aspects of taxonomy and later, following his retirement and his appointment in 1990 as a Bentham Moxon Trust Research Fellow, was involved in research around the scattered and often neglected, but botanically important, collections from India made by William Roxburgh (a surgeon and botanist with the East India Company), on which he was working until just before his death.

Although Forman was a very private individual, and not a great one

for socialising or "out-of-hours activities" with research colleagues, he loved to share his enthusiasms, and was encouraging to anyone who showed an interest in any of his own pursuits, particularly in the arts. He was disturbed to discover the loss of a Pissarro painting from Kew but was delighted to find many years later that it had been loaned to Orleans House in Twickenham. He had a passion for the music of Haydn and the operas of Handel.

Being of Russian extraction, he was particularly interested in the culture of that people and had visited St Petersburg several times recently. He was particularly interested in the music and life of Tchaikovsky (he was delighted to meet one of Tchaikovsky's surviving relatives who lived in Kew) and the music of certain more recent Russian composers such as Prokofiev, Popov

and Vainberg. Forman loved to listen to singers of the "old school", including Kirsten Flagstad, and had a large collection of recordings. He owned a small clavichord, which he used to play regularly. He was also very knowledgeable about Russian artists of the last 150 years and had a great interest in Russian ceramics of this century.

He enjoyed the art of Indonesia and was passionate about fine Indonesian textiles. He had a love of batik dyed woven cloth, particularly from eastern Indonesia, and owned a few ikats of quality.

Leonard Forman had a great sense of fun and was amused by the simple absurdities of life.

Simon J. Owens

Lewis Leonard Forman, botanist: born 29 June 1929; died London 16 June 1998.

Leonard Forman

Gilbert Young

GILBERT YOUNG was an eccentric who set out to change the planet with his World Government Party.

He may not have succeeded, but at the 1970 general election a remarkable 840 voters cast their ballot in his favour when he stood at Bath against a line-up that included the incumbent Tory MP Sir Edward Bawn. Young subsequently stood against Chris Patten in 1983 and polled just 67 votes.

Young's crusade to establish a single international state also earned him a mention in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the person whose book (a 150,000-word manuscript on world government) had received the greatest number of rejection letters from publishers, no fewer than 242 at the last count. It was eventually acquired by the British Library in 1988.

World government, Young explained with unassailable logic, would be based on the British parliamentary system and would be the answer to mankind's problems. He said: "It would explore and concoct a policy which would embrace the whole world and satisfy and unite everyone."

An inveterate letter-writer to world leaders, politicians and newspaper editors, Young enjoyed flirtations with all three mainstream political parties, including a spell working at Conservative Central Office from 1945 to 1948.

The son of a labourer from Jarrow, Young left school at 11 and worked as one of the first telegraph boys in the country. He remained with the Post Office for 22 years and was an active member of the Union of Post Office Workers, which sent him on a

12-month trade union organisation course at Ruskin College, Oxford.

It was after the Second World War, during which he served in the Royal Marines, that Young's political career began in earnest. Selected as a prospective parliamentary candidate for the Liberals in Vauxhall in 1957, he resigned just months later to set up the World Government Party.

Family commitments took him to Bath, a city which he decided was the ideal constituency on which to inflict his lonely campaign. At public meetings Young would often find himself speaking to an audience of just one - or sometimes fewer if the local newspaper reporter was detained elsewhere - and he described himself as a "general without an army".

Undeterred either by the rebuffs that thudded with increasing monotony through the letter-box or by

the expense of lost deposits, nor even the demands of his job as an insurance salesman, Young soldiered on as the prototype world government representative on earth.

Basing his world government objectives on suggestions he claimed had been made by Winston Churchill, Young received words of encouragement from the Indian Prime Minister Pandit Nehru and from Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

He reported the entire print media to the Press Council in 1970 for ignoring him, eliciting, possibly in fear of the anticipated condemnation, a feature on his work in the *Christian Science Monitor*. He also tried to sue *Harpers & Queen* magazine, claiming their description of him as "eccentric" was libellous. When a widow from Bristol whom he had never met left an estate valued

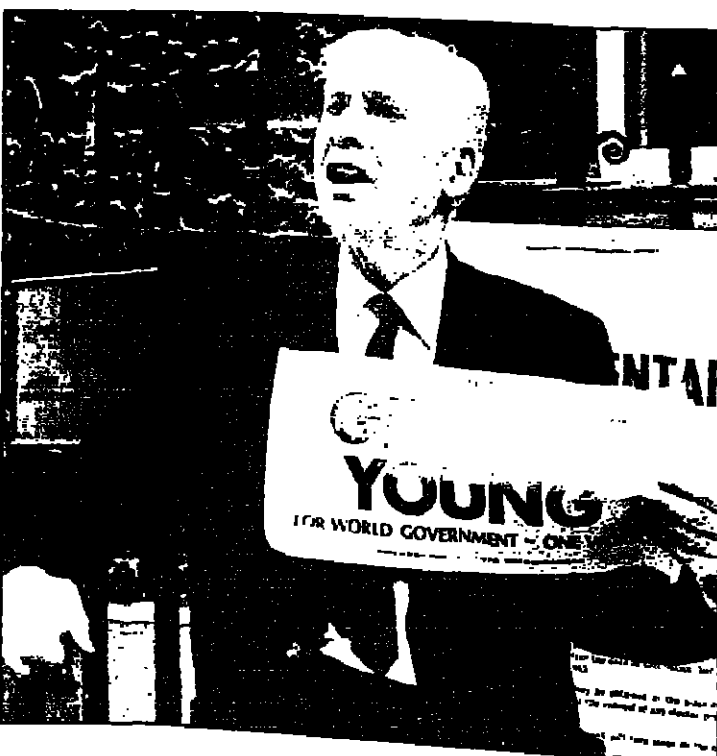
at £25,000 to "The Lord of All Orbs" he unsuccessfully applied to the courts to be recognised as such.

In total Young stood for Parliament four times and for local councils on as many other occasions.

A tall, intense and hospitable man with grey and silver hair and bright dark eyes, he once summed up his political creed: "They say I'm 100 years ahead of my time because I say the only way is one world economic policy, one world against pollution, no nuclear weapons."

Tim Bullamore

Gilbert Sidney Young, political campaigner: born Newcastle upon Tyne 11 September 1906; founder and chairman, World Government Party 1958-98; married 1952 Edith Gibbs (died 1989); died Bath 2 July 1998.



The Rev J. Eirian Davies

CLERGYMAN AND poet, J. Eirian Davies combined the best of the religious and literary traditions of Wales, often in a challenging and sometimes provocative way that won him the respect of his co-religionists and fellow writers.

For most of his life a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Wales (Calvinistic Methodist), he was to be found on the more radical wing of that somewhat conservative Connexion, winning a reputation as a fiery preacher who was noted for his outspokenly liberal views and commitment to the cause of Plaid Cymru. His poetry, too, while touching its cap to traditional forms such as the *englyn* and sonnet, was more typically free-wheeling and "open-field" than that of many of his contemporaries and he was not averse to writing for public performance and radio. No preacher-poet he.

Born at Nantgarwed in rural, Welsh-speaking Carmarthenshire, James Eirian Davies was educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Carmarthen, and the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He came to prominence as a poet while still an undergraduate, winning the Chair and Crown in the Students' Eisteddfod which has been the cradle of many a Welsh writer. His first volume, *Awen y Wawr* ("Dawn Muse"), was published in 1947 by Keldrych Rhys at the now legendary Druid Press, which also brought out R.S. Thomas's first book, *The Stones of the Field* (1946).

Davies's second volume, *Can Galed* ("Hard Song", 1974), contains his best work, in particular the apparently naive but, in fact, highly skilful use of rhyming couplets which he, like so many of our poets, learned from T.H. Parry-Williams and other poems in which is still caught in Welsh prosody *vers libre* - to distinguish it from writing in the centuries-old strict metres.

The book also includes pieces he wrote for the Dial-a-Poem scheme, the first of its kind in these islands when it was launched in Cardiff in 1970, and another, "Rhaid i mi brynu sgidiau" ("I'll Have to Buy Some Shoes"), which I commissioned for an open-air reading organised by the Arts Council on the field of the National Eisteddfod in 1971. I remember Eirian, in the Garibaldi-red shirt he often wore, declaiming his poem to a small cluster of mildly astonished bystanders with all the conviction and eloquence of which he was capable.

This willingness to experiment and to use his deeply resonant voice in the delivery of hard-hitting poems with a distinct social message was a hallmark of all Eirian Davies's work and it brought him into the avant-garde of Welsh literary life if not always into the favour of the diocese. Another of his characteristics, doubtless a reflection of his genial and egalitarian nature, was to employ the second person singular pronoun *ti* (thou), which Welsh like French has kept, rather than the more formal *chi* (you), when addressing friend and stranger alike.

His ministries were at Hirwaun in Glamorgan, Brynaman in Carmarthenshire and Mold in Flintshire - all urban places where he seemed most at home. It was while living in the last-named town that he served, from 1978 to 1982, as general factotum to his wife, Jennie, in her editorship of *Y Faner*, the Welsh national weekly magazine, contributing a racy column that became

His willingness to experiment brought Davies into the avant-garde of Welsh literary life, if not always into the favour of the diocese

essential reading for anyone with an interest in Welsh affairs. This work came to an abrupt end with her death.

Some critics have taken the view that Eirian Davies was far too long in the shadow of his wife, a woman of formidable intellect and charismatic personality who was one of the most brilliant journalists ever produced in the Welsh language. She was also, during the late 1950s, a leading member of Plaid Cymru and the party's candidate in Carmarthenshire, increasing its vote in a constituency which was eventually won by Gwynfor Evans in 1966. Davies certainly supported his wife in all her many activities, both journalistic and political, perhaps devoting time and en-



Eirian Davies with his wife Jennie, sometime editor of *Y Faner*, the Welsh national weekly, and son Sion, now a playwright, at an Eisteddfod

ergy to the role which might otherwise have gone into poetry. But it was his choice to put his shoulder to the wheel in these ways, at the expense of his own writing.

His last two collections, *Cyffwrdd Gwddi* ("A Volume of Poems", 1983) and *Awen y Wawr* ("Evening Muse", 1991), are more darkly contemplative than his finest work, though not in any dogmatic way, and were written out of the loss he suffered by his wife's death.

They had two sons. Sion Eirian is a freelance playwright based in Cardiff and Guto Eirian a railway worker at Pontypriid. Both have been active with the Welsh Republican Movement, to which their father was briefly attracted dur-

ing the 1950s, and while perhaps having rejected much of what he stood for as a clergyman, are their father's sons in their left-wing outlook and their readiness, in E's phrase, "against the sceptred myth to hold the golden heresy of truth".

Meic Stephens

James Eirian Davies, clergyman and poet: born Nantgarwed, Carmarthenshire 28 May 1918; Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Wales at Hirwaun 1942-54; Brynaman 1955-61; Mold 1962-81; married 1949 Jennie Howells (died 1982; two sons); died Ffairfach, Carmarthenshire 5 July 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

RICHARD WEST

Braggings of an 18th-century lobbyist

THE DUTCH Prince William of Orange, who led the invasion of England in 1688 and came to the throne as William III, is still often blamed for the seemingly endless feud between England and Ireland but seldom given credit for the equally long friendship and peace between England and Scotland.

King William regarded the Irish, the Scots and the English with equal coldness but wanted to see them united with Holland against the military threat from Louis XIV of France. William had gone into Ireland not for the sake of the people who now proclaim themselves as "Orangemen" but to crush a rebellion by the deposed James II. His purpose in Scotland was to frustrate James's Roman Catholic and Highland supporters, the "Jacobites". To this end, William restored the Scottish Parliament and gave to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland the status of an established religion, which it enjoys to this day.

When William of Orange lay on his deathbed at Kensington Palace in February 1702, he dictated a letter urging Parliament to press ahead for union with Scotland. The resulting Act of Union of 1707 was largely the work of William of Orange's friend, adviser and propagandist the pamphleteer Daniel Defoe, who later won fame as the author of *Robinson Crusoe*.

When Defoe went to Edinburgh in 1706, he posed as a man on the run from creditors. Like all the best cover stories, it was essentially true. He had been bankrupted in 1694, and was to be hounded by creditors till his death in 1731. When the High Church Tories wanted to outlaw his fellow Nonconformists in 1702, Defoe had replied with a lampoon called *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters* (i.e. send them all to the gallows). Unfortunately for Defoe, both his friends and enemies took the satire seriously. He was arrested, tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced to the pillory and Newgate Prison.

Defoe was rescued from Newgate by Queen Anne and her Tory secretary of state Robert Harley, who saw the value of a literary man in party politics, also employing Defoe's enemy Jonathan Swift. Harley financed Defoe's three-weekly paper the *Review* and sent him round England to gather intelligence as well as material for his masterpiece *A Tour of the Whole Island of Great Britain* (1724-26).



Daniel Defoe: fixing union with the Scots

By 1706, Queen Anne and her government feared that Scottish resentment of England might lead to a Jacobite uprising, supported by France, and therefore threaten the Protestant Hanoverian succession to the throne.

Defoe's patron Harley thought the Scots would accept union in return for access to trade in England's expanding empire in Asia and the Americas. He picked Defoe for the job as an English Presbyterian, a proven enemy of the Jacobites and a man knowledgeable about economics. In a letter to Harley just before leaving for Scotland, Defoe defined his task as identifying the enemies of the union and undermining them, disposing people to union through conversation and, answering libels against the union by pamphlets and the *Review*.

Soon after arriving in Edinburgh, Defoe was boasting to Harley about his network of agents and informers: "I am perfectly unsuspected of corresponding with anyone in England. I converse with Presbyterians, Episcopalians, dissenters and papists. I have conversation in every company."

This bragging was the prelude to an appeal for more expenses to meet the cost of "this sharpening place" because "money will do anything here". Like modern public relations men and lobbyists, Defoe likes to brag of his friends in high places, but nevertheless his views about union were proved right by the great success of the two countries during the 18th century.

Richard West is author of *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Daniel Defoe* (Flamingo, £8.99).

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CONSTANT: Oliver Gelli Meyrick, to Minette and Rory, on 26 June, in Pau, France, a brother for Patrick.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Kent, President-in-Chief, British Racing Drivers' Club, attends the practice sessions of the British Grand Prix, Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire; and, as Royal Fellow, Royal Academy of Engineering, attends a soirée at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 9am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, Weddings, Anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (Notices, Functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000. THE OBITUARIES e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

BIRTHDAYS

Mr James Aldridge, writer, 80; Mr John Artell, Headmaster, Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, 59; Mr Tony Baldry MP, 48; Mr Tommy Carmody, jockey, 42; Sir John Cockram, former chairman, Rickmansworth Water Co, 90; Sir Arthur Collins, solicitor, 87; Lord Desai, Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, 58; Mr Dawie de Villiers, South African diplomat and politician, 58; Mr John Dunlop, racehorse trainer, 59; Mrs Wianie Ewing, MBE, 69; Mr Denzil Freeth, former MP, 74; Mr Sunil Gavaskar, cricketer, 49; Mr Graham Johnson, pianist, 48; Sir George Kenyon, former chairman, William Kenyon & Sons, 86; Lord Lambton, former government minister, 76; Professor Ian Lucas, agriculturalist, 72; Sir Kit McMahon, former chairman, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, 70; The Very Rev Ivan Neill, former chaplain to the Queen, 88; Sir Leslie Porter, former president, Tesco, 78; Lord Roberts of Conwy, former MP, 68; Mr Keith Stackpole, cricketer, 58; Dr Gavin Strang MP, Minister of Transport, 55; Miss Josephine Veasey, opera singer, 68; Miss Virginia Wade, tennis player, 53; Mr Ian Wallace, actor, broadcaster and concert singer, 79; Maj-Gen Sir Philip Ward, Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, 74; Sir Reginald Wilson, chartered accountant and former company chairman, 63; Mrs Rosemary Wolff, primary school manager, 72; Maj-Gen Sir Brian Wyldborne-Smith, 85.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Calvin, religious reformer, 1509; Mrs Aphra Behn, playwright and novelist, baptised 1640; Sir William Blackstone, jurist,

1723; Captain Frederick Marryat, novelist, 1792; Robert Chambers, publisher and writer, 1802; Sir Arthur Helps, essayist and historian, 1813; Sandford Robinson Gifford, landscape painter, 1823; Camille Pissarro, painter, 1830; Henryk Wieniawski, violinist and composer, 1835; Will Bradley, artist, writer, and film director, 1868; Marcel Proust, writer, 1871; Syrie Gwendoline Maud Barnardo Maughan, interior decorator and former wife of Somerset Maughan, 1879; John Standish Surtees Prendergast, Vereker, sixth Viscount Gort, soldier, 1886; Toyohiko Kagawa, reformer and evangelist, 1888; Jimmy McHugh, composer, 1892; Carl Orff, composer, 1895; Evelyn Laye (Elsie Evelyn Laye), actress and singer, 1900; Deaths: Hadrian (Publius Aelius Hadrianus), Roman emperor, 138; El Cid (Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar), Spanish hero, 1099; Ladislaus IV the Cumanian, King of Hungary, assassinated 1290; Henry II, King of France, killed 1559; William I, the Silent, Prince of Orange, assassinated 1584; Theodore II, Tsar of Russia, assassinated 1865; George Stubbs, animal painter, 1806; Fernando Sor, composer, 1839; Louis-Jacques Mande Daguerre, photographic pioneer, 1851; Karl Richard Lepsius, Egyptologist, 1844; Pedro Antonio de Alarcón y Ariza, writer and journalist, 1891; Harry Quilter, barrister, artist and writer, 1907; John Arbuthnot Fisher, first Baron Fisher, naval reformer, 1920; Albert Chevalier, music-hall artist, 1923; Ferdinand Jelly Roll Morton, ragtime composer and pianist, 1941; Sholem Asch, novelist, 1957; Theodore Sigmund Strling, novelist, 1965; Earl Warren, Supreme Court Chief Justice, 1974; Giorgio de Chirico, painter, 1978. On this day: Henry VI of Lancaster was captured by the Yorkists at the Battle of Northampton; 1460; Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed

Queen of England, 1553; Peter III, Tsar of Russia, was deposed, 1762; Wyoming became the 44th of the United States, 1890; the first London performance of the comic opera *El Capitan* was staged, 1899; Mongolia was proclaimed an independent state, 1921; Rheims Cathedral was reopened after restoration from First World War bomb damage, 1938; the Battle of Britain began, 1940; the Allied invasion of Sicily began, 1943; the first parking meters were installed in London, 1958; the communications satellite Telstar was launched, 1962; the Cable and Broadcasting Act was passed, permitting cable television to be operated, 1984. Today is the Feast Day of St Amelberga, Saints Rufina and Secunda, The Seven Brothers and St Felicity.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Sight (in): Monet: 'What an eye!'", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Matthew Cook, "Ironwork: decorative techniques", 2pm.

LUNCHEONS

Corporation of London: Mr Keiko Fujimori, President of the Republic of Peru and the First Lady, Mrs Fujimori, were the guests of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at the Guildhall, London EC2. Sir Richard Nichols, Lord Mayor of London, and Lady Nichols, the Lady Mayoress, received the guests.

DINNERS

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening in HMS Victory at

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL BASE

Among those present were: Mr John H. Dalton, Secretary of the US Navy and Mrs Dalton; Sir Hugh Cubitt, Chairman of Rio Brothers Group, and Lady Cubitt; Mr David Omond, Secretary to the Home Office, and Mrs Omond; The Very Rev Michael Yorke, Provost of Hereford, and Mrs Yorke; Lt Col Michael Alates MP and Mrs Robinson-Alates.

CARMEN'S COMPANY

The following elections have been made for the ensuing year by the Worshipful Company of Carmen.

Mr B. H. Hopper, Master; Mr J. M. Silverman, Senior Wardens; Mr J. A. T. Saywell, Junior Wardens.

Mr D. W. G. Chidgey MP; Mr S. J. Norris, Mr A. M. Callaghan and Major J. H. Burgess have been elected with the liverty of the company.

ASSISTANT RECORDERS

The following have been appointed Assistant Recorders on the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Mr Jonathan Leslie Fisher; Mr James Michael Harbridge; Judge Martin John Cardinal; Mr Graham Hilton Cuff; Mr Gregory David Mark Dickinson; Mr Roger Kenneth Evans; Mr Nigel Graham Goodmark; Mr Anwar Amjad Singh Khawar; Mr Colin Richard Macdonald; Mrs Sarah Ruth Paneth; Mr David Shihadi Fitzway; Mr Timothy John Spencer.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.02pm.

United Synagogue: 0181-343 8889. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Councils may charge disabled for services

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

10 JULY 1998

Regina v Powys County Council, ex parte Hambridge Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Mantell) 2 July 1998

(1) Schedule 8 to the National Health Service Act 1977...

The crucial question was whether the community care services which the disabled received were "provided under" any of the enactments listed in section 17(2), it being common ground that if they were not then the council was not entitled to charge for them. It was also common ground that section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 imposed a duty on some local authorities to make arrangements for the provision of some services, including those with which the present case was concerned, which could give rise to a right of enforcement in an individual.

It had been submitted for the appellant that the services in question were "provided under" the 1970 Act, which was not one of the enactments listed in section 17(2) of the 1983 Act. The judge had, however, held that although section 2 of the 1970 Act imposed a duty to make arrangements for the provision of the services, they were nevertheless "provided under" section

29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, which was listed in section 17(2) of the 1983 Act.

Section 29 of the 1948 Act as originally enacted gave local authorities powers to make arrangements for the provision of services to the disabled, a power which they had previously lacked. It also imposed a duty on authorities to make such arrangements for persons ordinarily resident in their area, but only when so directed by the Minister. It gave no immediately enforceable rights to a disabled citizen. Section 2 of the 1970 Act imposed a duty on authorities to exercise their powers under section 29 of the 1948 Act if they were satisfied that it was necessary to do so.

There was no dispute that prior to 1970, local authorities had been entitled to charge for services provided to the disabled, whether those services were provided under the National Health Service Act or under the National Assistance Act. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 had extended the circumstances in which an authority was obliged to provide those services, but there was nothing in the Act which expressly removed the right to charge.

All that the Health and Social Security and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 had done which was of relevance to the present issue was to repeal the original provisions which had entitled the authority to charge, namely section 29(5) of the National Assistance Act 1948 and Schedule 8, paragraph 3(2) of the National Health Service Act 1977, and to replace them by a new provision.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON lobby, n. or v.

of the monastery to mean any corridor or ante-room. As early as 1640, the public hall of the House of Commons was called the Lobby and in early-19th-

century America the term was extended to apply to the people who wait in the lobby to influence politicians. By 1850 the verb to lobby was used to refer to an attempt to influence.

The latest twist, dating back only to 1939, is to use the noun lobby to mean an organised mass event for the purpose of lobbying.

THE GRADUAL drift in meaning of today's word provides a fine example of the way language evolves. In the middle of the 18th century a lobby was a place of monastic seclusion (from the medieval Latin *lobium*, a cloister). Shakespeare ("How in our voydng Lobby has thou stood?" 2 Henry VI) brought it out

NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

Whatever Tina wants, Tina gets – but this time?

THE BIGGEST topic of conversation in media circles here is: Who is going to succeed Tina Brown as editor of the *New Yorker*? The most obvious candidate is Graydon Carter, the sharp-witted Canadian who followed her as editor of *Vanity Fair* and who, by anyone's reckoning, has been very successful.

Initially, however, it was assumed that he'd removed himself from contention because he couldn't face the daily grind of producing a weekly magazine. In the words of one *Vanity Fair* insider: "It would be like going from a luxury ocean liner to a black hole."

I'm not so sure about this. On Wednesday afternoon, Miramax put out a press release welcoming Tina on board which included the following quote from her: "I am very proud of my six years at *The New Yorker*."

"With a group of dedicated writers and editors, we have brought the sleeping beauty back to life and I know it will build now on that editorial strength and prosper just as *Vanity Fair* did after my departure."

My initial reading of this was that she was taking the credit for

Vanity Fair's success under Graydon. There's no love lost between them and she rarely resists an opportunity to take a shot at him. However, on closer inspection it seems clear that she believes Graydon will also succeed her as editor of *The New Yorker* and she's decided to take the credit in advance for whatever success he might have there as well.

If anyone knows who the next editor of *The New Yorker* is going to be, Tina does. Consequently, if I was a betting man, my money would be on Graydon.

IT'S NOT all that surprising that Tina has ended up at Miramax. It is owned by the Disney Corporation and Tina has been cultivating Michael Eisner, Disney's CEO, for some time now. As one well-connected friend put it, "She's been on Michael Eisner like a condom for two years."

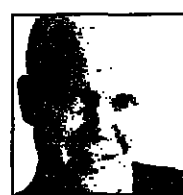
For instance, when her husband Harold Evans was still at Random House, he signed up Eisner to write his business memoirs for several million dollars and Tina recommended

one of the *New Yorker*'s top fact-checkers to help him out. To celebrate the deal, Harry and Tina gave a party for Eisner in New York.

More recently, Tina hosted a conference at Disney's Epcot Center last autumn at which Eisner gave the welcoming speech. The theme of the conference was supposed to be "the Future". In retrospect, the real theme was evidently Tina's future.

MICHAEL EISNER isn't the only Hollywood mogul Tina has been cultivating. A couple of weeks ago she gave a speech at the 75th birthday party of Sumner Redstone which was, in the words of one person present, "embarrassingly effusive". Earlier this year she ran a profile of David Geffen, the most powerful partner in the Hollywood Studio Dreamworks SKG, which was so fawning one former *New Yorker* contributor confronted the writer at a party and said, "Did you spit or did you swallow?"

Another partner in SKG, Steven Spielberg, also got the star treatment. Last year the



TOBY YOUNG

If anyone knows who the next editor of *The New Yorker* is going to be, Tina does. If I was a betting man, my money would be on Graydon Carter

New Yorker's film critic, Anthony Lane, wrote a savage review of *Amistad*, Spielberg's epic about American slavery. Tina took one look at it and decided it wasn't "strong enough" to appear in her magazine.

FEAR AND LOATHING now reigns at *The New Yorker*. During her six years at the magazine, Tina succeeded in getting rid of the old guard and replacing them with her own people. Unfortunately, only a

very few of them can expect to be taken with her to the new magazine she's launching for Miramax. The rest face an uncertain future.

"We feel like the Securitate after the fall of Ceausescu," said one nervous member of staff. "We're trying to make ourselves as inconspicuous as possible."

When Tina took over the magazine in 1992 she decided not to renew the contract of the blind Indian writer Ved Mehta, which was a holdover from the William Shawn era. He responded by refusing to leave his office, gambling that even Tina would hesitate before throwing a blind man out on the streets. For a time, at least, he was allowed to stay. Within *The New Yorker* this audacious move was dubbed "the Gandhi strategy".

ACCORDING TO *The New York Post*, Tina was demanding a salary of \$1.5 million a year from SI Newhouse in order to remain at the *New Yorker*, as well as a cornucopia of perks. Even though SI is personally worth \$4.5 billion, he balked at her demands. The *Post* also reports

that Miramax agreed to an annual salary of \$3 million, in addition to paying off the loan SI made to enable her to buy her \$3 million town house in New York. That's entertainment!

TINA'S NEW JOB is a bit peculiar, even by Hollywood's standards. She'll be a "mini-mogul" in charge of a multi-media company responsible for producing books, magazines, films and television programmes. The company will be a division of Miramax which, in itself, is responsible for producing films and books. Miramax, in turn, is owned by the Walt Disney Company which has a book division, a television network, a magazine publishing company and two film studios.

In Hollywood this absurd duplication is called "vertical integration" but a better name for it might be "curate's eggery". When you think about it, there's nothing to stop Tina starting a sub-division of her new company, which is responsible for producing books, magazines, films,

etc. The person in charge of this could be called a "mini-mini-mogul". Tina, in case you're reading this, I'm available for work.



Mystery death of an eco-warrior



A year after campaigning ecologist Sanjoy Ghose vanished, his body has not been found.

By Peter Popham in Jorhat, Assam

FOR THE crime of helping some of India's most vulnerable farmers hang on to their land, a social worker called Sanjoy Ghose, aged 37, was abducted and killed by secessionist guerrillas a year ago in a remote part of the state of Assam. That is what the press here says; that is what everyone believes; but what have they done with the body?

Sanjoy Ghose's widow, Sumita, with 50 friends and supporters, returned last week to the north-eastern waterland where the Oxford-educated doctor disappeared to try to learn more about what happened to him.

The look of the place has more in common with Burma or Vietnam than the rest of India: It is tropical, moist, houses are of woven bamboo and shaggy thatch, the newly-risen paddy shimmers moss-green, while miniature cattle drag ploughs through fallow fields for the next crop.

Majuli, lies in the middle of the vast Brahmaputra River; so broad at flood time it is more like an ocean, it is the biggest river island in the world, 30km long and dotted with ancient *sattras*, Hindu monasteries. Assam has been in the grip of a low-level civil war for nearly 20 years, since the emergence of the United Liberation Front of Asom, or ULFA, fighting for the state's secession from India.

Despite its natural wealth, Assam has never figured among the Indian state's priorities, and it remains charmingly frozen in time,



Sumita Ghose, the wife of Sanjoy (above) holds the placard to protest over the disappearance of her husband (below)

with little industry other than tea, few cars, terrible roads, primitive farming and large-scale unemployment. And the island of Majuli, for want of investment and state initiative, shrinks in size year by year as the river eats into it.

A little over two years ago, Sanjoy Ghose and six friends clambered off Majuli's wooden ferry and set to work to try and improve the place. With a degree from Oxford in agri-

ULFA claimed he died falling off a cliff while trying to escape

cultural economics and a doctorate in public health from America's John Hopkins University, he had a record as one of India's most enterprising social workers. "He believed people have the capacity to change their own situations for the better," Sumita Ghose said, "that when people feel involved, when they feel they are playing a part in their own destiny, you can create something out of something seemingly non-existent."

In August the floods came. Majuli floods every year, but these were the worst in memory, and Ghose and his friends worked to provide drinking water through the creation of shallow wells and organised a mobile medical camp.

Gradually they got to grips with the island's basic problem. As one of Ghose's friends put it this week, "Farmers in Majuli talk to us; people talk to us about development, but how can we have development when our very land is disappearing?" Majuli's annual floods are probably unpreventable, but steps could be taken to halt the steady erosion of the land. The authorities allotted money for development work, but it was stolen by politicians and contractors.

Sanjoy Ghose and his team, using the pioneering work of a local scientist, decided to work experimentally on stopping erosion of a 1.7km stretch of riverbank. He called on the local people, and they responded with a huge spontaneous effort. "The 1.7km stretch was divided into 30-metre stretches," a colleague remembers, "and thousands of villagers descended to dig it and sow the plants that, according to the ULFA, were supposed to knit the bank together."

At weekends, entire villages came down to do the work. People thought of it as a pilgrimage. One year on, the reinforced river bank still holds, and the village has been spared the loss of hundreds of metres of land.

From the perspective of the people with power on the island, the initiative was subversive. The "work" of contractors, flush with state money, was held up to ridicule. Ghose's group, known as Arvadh-north east, was becoming an alternative power base. In the group's newsletter, cases of corruption were exposed. ULFA denounced Ghose as an agent for military intelligence.

When a prominent judge visited the island, ULFA herded villagers into trucks at gunpoint and drove them round the Circuit House where he was having lunch, to shout anti-Ghose slogans. Through the Superintendent of Police, Ghose was warned not to set foot on the island. He stayed away throughout June, then on 4 July he went back. The same day he was abducted.

ULFA admitted taking him, but claimed he died falling off a cliff in the far north while trying to escape. Local people on Majuli maintain that he was shot on the island and his body consigned to the river, which

was in full spate.

As the anniversary of the abduction drew near, Sumita Ghose and her friends decided to return to the island which held such terrible memories, to renew friendships, sound out the chances of resuming work there and try to prod the authorities into revealing more about Sanjoy's fate. But making contact by phone and letter, they found a new chill had entered their relationship with the island.

One year ago, islanders held demonstrations in protest at ULFA's action: there was talk of putting up a statue of Sanjoy in the main street of Kamalabari, the island's biggest village. But now, when Sumita renewed contact, the letters were intercepted and the recipients warned not to respond. When she tried phoning, half an hour later the people she had spoken to would receive another call, warning them to stay away. Later the intimidation became more explicit: ULFA issued a public warning to Sumita to stay away. Sumita and her friends braved the threats and went anyway, surrounded (at the local authority's insistence) by police armed with automatic weapons everywhere they went. They tramped the narrow causeway roads of the beauti-

ful, inundated island, carrying banners that read WHERE IS SANJOY and RELEASE SANJOY NOW. But the welcome was bleak, only a shadow of the warmth and identification which the same villagers displayed after the abduction.

"Today was a horrifying demonstration of the strange power that ULFA has over these people," Sumita said on the day she left the island. "We could see people in the village,

There are vested interests in development money going astray

people we knew really well and who really wanted to come and see us but did not dare to. I think they have lost confidence in the power of the local authorities to give them protection."

"What we were trying to show people was that they have a capacity to change their situations for the better, and that that's the way India should be going. After 50 years of government development programmes, that's the way things

should be shifting. People should be taking responsibility on to themselves, and we wanted to show them that they can."

"But in Pohardia, the village where we worked on stemming the erosion of the bank, we said to people, 'Why don't you continue the work we started last year?' But we got no reply. There are vested interests there that are profiting from development money going astray."

The Friends of Sanjoy Ghose have learnt nothing new or concrete about what happened to Sanjoy. Local officials have been punctiliously correct, but unforthcoming. The group has no reason to believe that they would be welcomed back. Meanwhile the mighty Brahmaputra continues to eat away at what is left of Majuli island. Sitting on the corrugated iron roof of the ramshackle ferry that links Majuli to the river bank, I watched it slowly recede – a vision of East Anglia in the Tropics.

The youth next to me, a native of the island and a postgraduate physics student, was gloomy. "At this rate," he said, "in a few years Majuli will cease to exist." As if, in the face of official inertia and corruption, there was absolutely nothing to be done about it.

National Pictures

The cruel myth of the other woman

As Camilla Parker Bowles will know, stepmothers are always wicked in fairy tales. But it doesn't have to be this way. By Dave Hill

SO PRINCE William has met Camilla Parker-Bowles and everyone is appalled. The timing, it seems, is the problem for the famed anonymous friends of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, one of whom informed the *Daily Mail* that it is "astonishingly insensitive... that such a meeting should happen before the first anniversary of Diana's death".

Others are appalled for rather different reasons. Some are appalled by Mrs Parker-Bowles and that's all there is to it. Others, such as me, are appalled by the picture conjured up by descriptions of these meetings.

The teenage heir has apparently "taken tea" with his pa's cherie, the pearl-strung former cuckoo in his mother's loveless nest.

Perhaps it was all PG Tips and jammy dodgers, but the term "taking tea" suggests something a lot less chummy, an occasion marked by cultivated throat-clearing and the nervous rattle of sugar tongs on fine china. Still, before we rush to the now-standard People's Judgement that Charles and Camilla, being terminal toffs, were simply born to get this stuff all wrong, let us pause for tender reflection.

The circumstances of these pained aristos are certainly unique, but the heart of their situation still ought to strike up an empathetic beat. The Wills-Camilla encounters mark the pair's first, fearful attempts to build a potential stepchild-

stepparent relationship, their preliminary tip-toe into an emotional terrain filled with gaping gulfs and lurking sloughs.

It will be a long, strange trip dotted with ambiguous signposts. Their one consolation is that they will not be alone. Far from it.

Stepfamilies are the booming by-product of the distressing modern tendency of conventional families to fall apart. Around one in eight children is likely to grow up in one, and over one million were doing so at the beginning of the Nineties. Yet they also comprise the most neglected element in the whole family debate for

Stepparents who work hard can provide children with something special

the unseemly squabble that often passes for one), being widely misunderstood, hugely under-supported and, of course, saddled with a terribly bad press.

The last has been so for centuries in the case of stepmothers - ever heard a fairy tale in which she wasn't wicked? More recently, stepfathers have been the subject of anxious attention, and rightly so. A study in 1986 reached the shocking

conclusion that one in 11 stepfathers had sexual contact of some kind with his stepdaughter before she was 14 years old and that ratio was about twice as high when the definition of "stepfather" was taken to include any man who lived in a household as the mother's partner, however briefly, as well as those who had literally "stepped in" to the biological father's shoes.

The grim lesson of these statistics is that any lone mother, in particular the lone mother of a daughter (boys are more likely to be sexually abused outside their families), should exercise extreme caution before inviting a new man to share her household. It also provides the most perturbing example of how unhealthy relationships within stepfamilies can be.

Yet while it would be brainless to deny that stepfamilies can be problematic, sometimes horrifyingly so, for all their members - and for others with ties to them who no longer live in the same home - it is also possible for a stepfamily to be a suc-

cessful unit for all those in it. The question is, how can it be made so?

There are, of course, no easy answers. For a start, the term "stepfamily" describes many configurations. The National Stepfamily Association has identified no less than 72, ranging from those containing a couple, their respective children from previous relationships and those they have had together, to couples who live with no children at all, but are often visited by a child or children from a previous relationship. And that is just the heterosexuals. Stepfamilies may be preceded by lone parenthood, separation, divorce or bereavement, and stepchildren can be full or part-time members of a household. Parents may also become stepchildren if one of their own parents is parted by whatever cause, including death, and then re-partner. The "blended family" can come in many flavours.

Yet whichever sort of stepfamily you think of, the essentials of the engagement which has already taken place between Parker-Bowles and



Windsor junior is almost unavoidable. At some point, one or both biological parents are likely to have to say to their children words to the effect of "this is my new sweetheart" and think thoughts to the effect of "dear God, what do they think?". When is the right time for such delicate introductions? And how on Earth do you get it right?

My own experience suggests that it is a good idea if possible to prepare the ground carefully in advance. Not that my experience was archetypal, particularly for a man. When my ex-partner and I split up it was rather than I who left the family home to live with someone else - very sensibly, since you ask - and we proceeded to share the care of our three children exactly equally.

After 18 rather lonely and financially challenging months I was fortunate - very fortunate - to begin a serious relationship with a woman who was not only pleased to spend the time of day and night with me, but was even willing to abandon her outrageous "ladette" lifestyle (not really) and move into my home with all the responsibilities that entailed.

Not immediately, though. For several months she was simply a frequent and welcome visitor who my daughter valued for her make-up bag, and who my sons worked out could be prevailed upon not only to read them bedtime stories, but even to participate in games of bedroom

football. One day, in her absence, I asked the children how they would feel if she lived in our house all the time. They all said "yes" and cheered. She moved in a few weeks later and, sometimes to my amazement, has been there ever since.

I will not pretend that everything in the stepgarden is always rosy. Nor will I pretend that my relationship with the adult members of the children's other stepfamily are ideal. But I will say that the arrangement we have ended up with is the best possible for the children in all of the circumstances.

And I would add the general point that stepparents who work hard at being the sort of grown-ups their stepchildren need them to be can provide those children with something special which they would not otherwise have had.

If Camilla Parker-Bowles ends up doing the same for William and Harry, and is seen to do so, she will have done her country a service which generations of upright blue-bloods have never managed before.



Left, Camilla Parker Bowles, who has just met Prince William (right), for tea. Below, Raine Spencer, who had to deal with the wicked stepmother myth



Who are you calling a buxom wench?

Now we know skinny models encourage anorexia, when will fashion use 'normal' sized women? Never, says Tamsin Blanchard

SO SOPHIE Dahl, the first size 14 supermodel, was not enough. For a brief period, there was a glimmer of hope: a normal-sized girl with a high profile in the modelling world. She is what the British Medical Association would describe as a "buxom wench" (how patronising). If they had their way, Sophie Dahl would be selling us washing-up liquid, stripping off to sell the latest Citroën and being picked up in bars by men who drink real ale.

Then there was Sara Morrison. Remember her? She was the girl the photographer, Nick Knight, found shopping in a Merseyside precinct and whose curvaceous body was splashed across the pages of *Vogue*. That shoot prompted another debate about the anorexic fashion model syndrome. *Vogue* was accused of tokenism, that this was a one-off and big models were not about to enter the pages on a regular basis. We saw Sophie Dahl nude in *i-D* - again photographed by Nick Knight. Her size 14 curves were not sufficient and she was computer enhanced to add extra volume. Imagine that? Normally, fashion pictures are retouched to skim a bit off the hips here or a touch of cellulite there. Do that to Kate Moss and you would never work again.

And sure enough, it was all a fad. Women aren't getting any slimmer - the average size is still closer to Dahl or Morrison than to Jodie Kidd - but the advertising industry continues to use slim women to sell their products. *Vogue* has not used another model over a size 10 since - and nor have any of their advertisers. And Dahl has been submitted to a series of jobs where she is not photographed as a normal sized woman (if you can call a six-foot-something, size fourteen woman "normal")



Sophie Dahl, the size 14 supermodel

but as "larger than life" or just plain fat. The fashion and advertising industries have made Dahl as much a freak stereotype as any skinny model. It seems there is only enough room on a model agent's books for one girl over size 14 at a time.

I do not accept that the buck stops with fashion editors and their glossy magazines. Nor is it the fault of model agents. They are simply working to market forces, supply and demand and all that. Advertising casting agents do not have to book stick-thin models. If Saatchi or Erickson McCann wanted a girl with three heads and four toes for a big advertising campaign, you can bet that a model agent somewhere would find her. Photographers too have a lot of power. Nick Knight has done his bit and will no doubt continue challenging stereotypes of shape and size. But when Irving Penn recently photographed Sara Morrison nude for *American Vogue*, the picture was used, not for fashion, but for a feature on slimming pills. "Irving Penn fell in love with Sara Morrison's body," says Allison Bramwell, director of Morrison's agency,

Excel Models. But he stopped short of shooting main fashion with her. Yet it is photographers like him who have the power to photograph whoever they want for whatever magazine they want.

Sara Morrison has been lucky. She went into the profession at the top. But she has been booked since then primarily because she is a larger model, not because she is an average size that average women can relate to, or because she simply looks good in clothes. "Everything she's done has been about her size," says Bramwell. "There still needs to be a hell of a lot of changes in the industry."

Ironically, Sara Morrison's book was called in for an advertising job for Accurist watches. The brief changed and Accurist chose instead to photograph their chunky watches on the arm of a victim of malnutrition with the copy line: "Put some weight on." They were having a dig at the fashion industry, and making a reference to Omega, the watch company that pulled its ad from *Vogue* last year in protest about anorexic-looking models. I have yet to see a watch company put

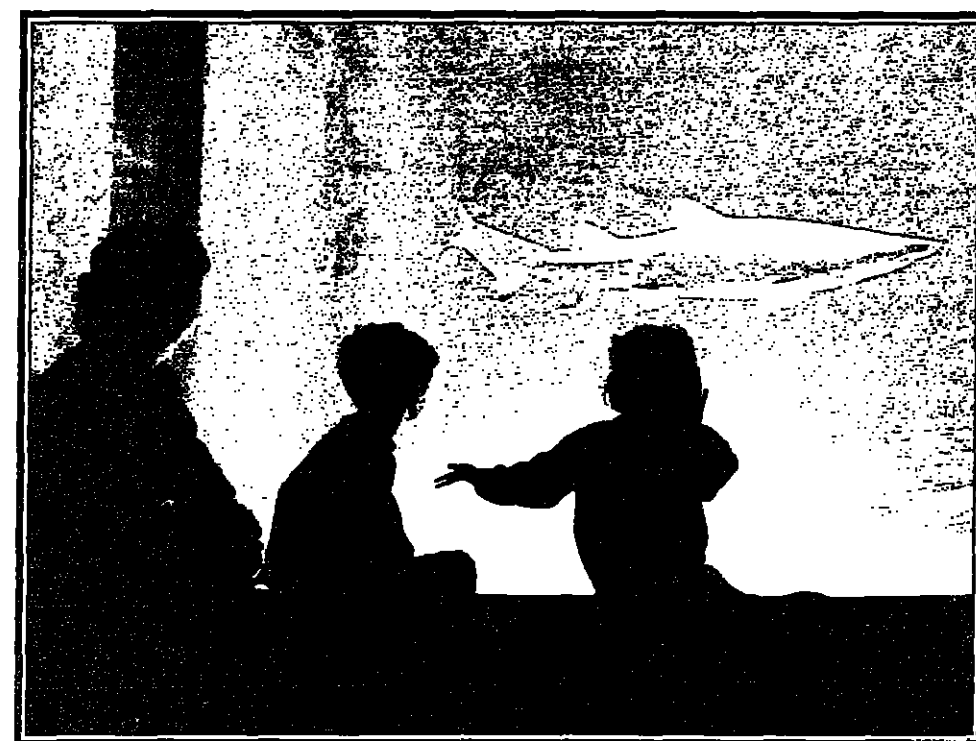
its money where its mouth is however, and launch an ad campaign using "larger" (ie normal sized) women. They are as guilty as anyone for using stereotypically slim women. Excel's 25 models who range in size from 14 to 18, have enough work to keep them busy - mainly in Italy, Germany and the US. But because they are big sizes, they get lower rates than their thinner counterparts who command higher fees for a day's work.

"I agree with what the BMA are saying," says Alison Bramwell. "But I don't think they should be using words like 'buxom' and 'wench'." No woman wants to be referred to in these terms and a woman who is called a "buxom wench" is far more likely to go on a crash diet than if she looks at a picture of a slim model in a fashion magazine.

The whole issue is a thorny one. It involves not just clothing manufacturers, fashion designers, magazines and advertisers, but the all pervasive image of Hollywood stars (how many leading ladies are what the BMA would call "buxom"?). And the pop music industry. Iain R Webb, fashion director of *Elle* magazine says "we try to make sure we use girls who aren't overly skinny. If a girl is right for a story, we'll use her. I don't think using a token size 16 model is the answer." In the August issue, there is a reader's letter that states: "I don't agree that fashion magazines should feature more realistic (ie older, heavier) women. If I wanted to see more of that, I would just have to look in the mirror and save my £2.50." As Webb says: "We try to give something that will appeal to everyone. Whatever you do you will always be accused of alienating somebody."

THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



GREAT DAYS OUT

The essential guide for the summer holidays produced in conjunction with

KidsOut

Plus: Summer reading special - new stories and poems from some of Britain's brightest writing talent

With sufferers of Alzheimer's likely to double, this is an 'awareness' week to take very seriously. By Steven Rose

Memories are made of this

WE ARE our memories. Imagine the slow progression of memory loss. Forgetting where you left the car keys or whether you had done the shopping. Later on, you forget your address and age, and even the names of those you love. A defining part of what it is to be you has also gone. This is what happens in Alzheimer's disease and the other memory-erasing disorders that affect up to 800,000 people in Britain today, a figure that may double over the next 20 years, since the population is ageing.

Memories are many things; the taste of last night's dinner, the colour of your lover's hair, your fourth birthday party, how to ride a bicycle, the route you must travel to get to work or the shops. All these, and multitudes more, must be "stored" somehow in the brain.

Talk of storage makes one think of the computer. But brain memory is not like computer memory, locked away in files of dead information that may be pulled out, consulted and then replaced. Living memories are dynamic; "re-membering" something involves work and activity; when we recall a past event, we reform it in our minds; the next time we remember it we are remembering not the event itself but our most recent memory of it. And unlike computer memories, human memories are rich with meaning.

Think of Robinson Crusoe on his desert island, seeing a footprint in the sand. A computer might register the shape, interpret it as left by a human foot. For Crusoe, it means a companion, rescue or danger. A host of emotions are buried in that simple shape.

This also reminds us that memories are not just about the brain. Some memories – such as how to ride a bike – are scarcely in the brain at all; they reside in a recollected pattern of muscle movements. But any emotional experience involves surges of hormones and changes in the body's immune system, which feed into and interact with the brain. Not surprisingly, "affective" memories are much stronger than purely "cognitive" ones.

So if remembering is hard work,

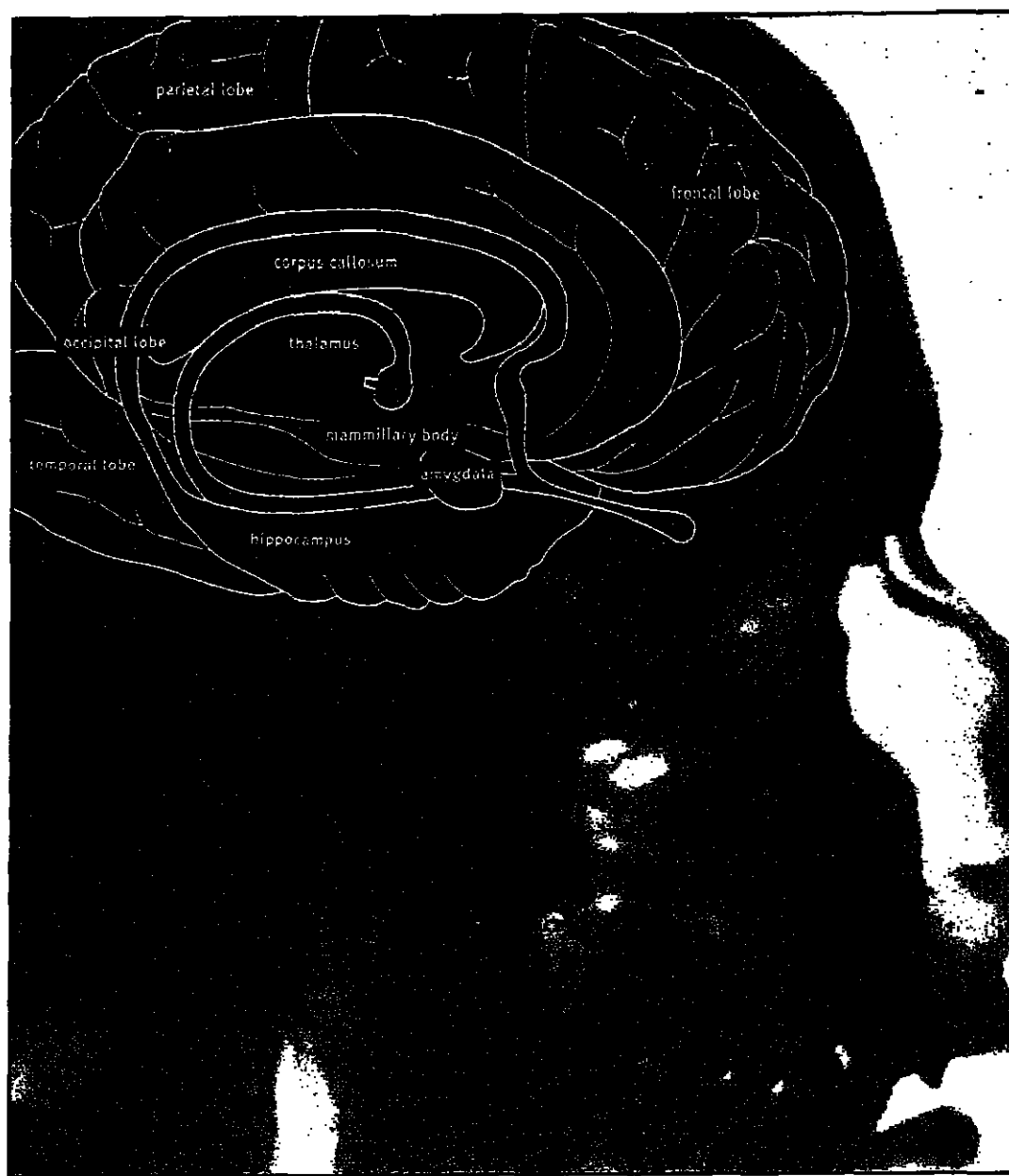
how about forgetting? People often complain of having a bad memory, of not being able to remember names or faces. But just think of the myriad sensations and experiences that are constantly battering us. Were we to remember them all, our brains would be in danger of collapsing, overloaded. Even though the brain is the most complex phenomenon known to science, with its hundred billion nerve cells, each capable of making up to a hundred thousand connections with another, there must be limits.

Our brains and their capacity for memory have evolved to help us survive in the world, and survival depends on being able to remember the important things and discard the irrelevant. You do not really need to remember where you parked your car last week, if you have moved it since. But if you do need to remember it, you probably can. There is a host of memory tricks, hardly changed since they were first described in ancient Greece, which the memory men – people who can recall the contents of entire telephone directories – still use.

Most involve linking the thing you want to remember to some familiar place or striking image or rhyme. One Roman general is said to have used this method to remember the names of all the soldiers in his army.

But to me, as a neuroscientist, what matters is how memories work biologically: what goes on in our brains as we learn something or later try to recall it. We believe that memories are coded in the brain in the form of changed patterns of connections between the nerve cells, rather as music and voices are stored on a tape as magnetic traces.

Learning something creates a new trace. The pattern may be stored only for a matter of minutes (so-called short-term, or working memory) in the form of electrical signals between nerve cells, but if it is to be held for longer, there have to be more permanent changes in the chemical composition and structure of the connections. The junctions between nerve cells (synapses) are held in place by a special family of proteins, called



The human brain is the most complex structure in the universe and scientists may be on the verge of understanding the miracle of memory

cell-adhesion molecules, which work rather like Velcro to hold the two sides of the junction together.

My own research has shown that when new lasting memories are made, the "Velcro" molecules briefly detach so that the junctions can separate; new Velcro mole-

cules are made and stick them together again in a novel pattern, a pattern that forms the "memory trace" and which may be reactivated when we remember what we have learned.

But it is important to emphasise that these are not "memory mole-

cules". Memories are not a property of particular molecules, or indeed of particular cells, but of the changing patterns of connections amongst a myriad nerve cells, and the biochemical soup of hormones and immunological processes within which the brain and its cells must

operate. Memory is a property of a person, not of a bit of that person, however complex it may be.

This research also provides a clue as to why memory loss occurs in Alzheimer's disease.

No one knows for sure what causes the disease, in which nerve cells in the brain die, and the spaces between them become clogged with a sticky, insoluble protein called amyloid.

A small number of people who have the disease have a genetic mutation that increases the production of amyloid, and there are known to be a number of risk factors which increase the likelihood of getting the disease, some genetic but most associated with events – such as having been concussed.

What is sure is that it is a disease, not an inevitable consequence of ageing. And there are many ways in which we can protect against the disease – a healthy diet, and vitamin E, may help. Keeping the brain active is also protective, and, so it seems, is the oestrogen in hormone replacement therapy, for women after the menopause.

The amyloid that clogs up the brain and is so characteristic of the disease is a breakdown product of a protein, called the amyloid precursor protein (APP), which is a normal and indeed essential part of the brain's chemical machinery. For it turns out that APP is one of those "Velcro" molecules which our research has shown to be necessary for long-term memory formation. In the disease, the sticky bits of the molecule, which project from the surface of the nerve-cell junctions and help hold the cells in place, break off and clog up the space between the cells. Is this why people with the disease can no longer remember things for more than a few minutes? We do not know, but this sort of research is beginning to hold out new hope of at least understanding the nature of the problem.

Professor Steven Rose is director of the Open University's brain and behaviour research group. His latest book, *From Brains to Consciousness* (Penguin, £25), is published this month.

THE TRUTH ABOUT...

A BETTER MEMORY

THERE ARE two theories about how we forget. One idea is that memory traces in the brain fade away with time, like ink in bright sunshine. Another is that they are "overwritten" by more recent information.

But just as having a memory is essential for life, so forgetting things may be important too. It means we can get rid of all the useless information that would otherwise clog up the system. Forgetting unpleasant and traumatic events can also be psychologically beneficial.

Studies show that people are more likely to forget unpleasant childhood experiences than pleasant ones. With time, women are progressively less likely to remember the pain of childbirth.

Some things are less easy to forget, notably "procedural skills", such as riding a bike and swimming, which suggests that they are stored in a different way to those easily forgotten.

However, forgetting can be a great problem in life. Work is under way to improve memory with the use of "smart drugs", technically known as cognitive enhancers. They are designed to help us retain memories. One such drug, Aricept, is currently licensed in Britain to help people suffering from Alzheimer's. Yet many scientists believe that such drugs will only slow down the gradual loss of memory, rather than reverse the trend.

There are, nevertheless, other ways of helping to stem the loss of memory that so frequently occurs with age. Experts suggest exercising your memory just as you would exercise your muscles.

One suggestion is to learn some poetry by heart. The Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, says that a combination of visual imagery and careful listening to the underlying sound pattern of a poem is the secret of learning the words. He suggests splitting the poem up into phrases for which you make up a vivid visual image, linking it to the previous phrase.

For details, see *Thanks for the Memory*, (Alzheimer's Disease Society, £10)

STEVE CONNOR
SCIENCE EDITOR

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Licence Exemption Application by
May Gurney (Construction) Ltd
("the Applicant")

Company Registration Number: 873179
Principal address of the Applicant:
Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8SZ

Directors of the Applicant:
Alan Joseph Korn (Chairman)
David William Edmund Sterry
David Errol Neale
Malcolm George Duffield
William Paul Matthews
Ivan Charles Allan Green
David Ronald Pask

The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 7 (4) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant the Applicant an exemption from the requirement to hold a non-passenger licence, which would otherwise be required for the operation of trains in connection with certain maintenance activities, on the grounds that it is not appropriate for the full licensing provisions to be applied to such operations. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the proposed exemption should send such representation or objection to:

Ms. Anita Darrin
Licensing and Compliance, Passenger Services Group,
Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square,
138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST
not later than 7 August 1998.

Dated 10 July 1998 John Swift QC

Legal Notices

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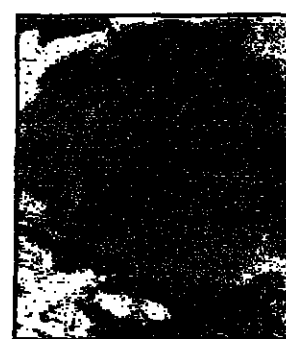
Q How do worms penetrate hard soil in summer?
Earthworms are largely crevice burrowers, so they seek cracks in the soil into which they can squeeze.

They move through such crevices by peristaltic locomotion, bulging passing backwards along the body acting as temporary points of attachment in propelling the animal forwards. If the soil is rich in food, or compact, they will in effect eat their way along.

In compact soil, much of the material that passes through the worm is deposited as casts on the surface. In less compact soil a large part is deposited underground.

During cold or dry weather many species burrow deeply, cease feeding, curl into a ball and wait for warmer or drier conditions to return.

The walls of worm burrows get compressed as a result of the worms' movements, and coated with mucus and urine. Also they may be smeared with worm casts. This creates a smooth coating, which may be more comfortable for the worms than the soil alone.



Except under extreme conditions, such as a herd of cattle passing by, there is no danger of worms getting crushed.

Q How fast can volcanic lava flow?
The speed depends on the composition of the lava, the steepness of the hill it is flowing down, and how fast it is erupting. In general, lava flows faster the closer it is to the volcano and the nearer it is to the centre of the flow itself. The edges are more exposed to the air, and so they dry out more quickly.

Q Can volcanoes damage the ozone layer?
Yes, but it depends on the type of material extruded. The greater the quantity of gases capable of breaking down ozone, the greater

the damage. Large volcanic eruptions produce a high column, transporting gases and particulate matter high into the atmosphere. Here it may linger for some time, and harm the ozone layer.

Q Who discovered the electron?
Sir Joseph John Thompson, an English physicist (1856-1940), found the new particle in April 1897. Without his discovery, it is doubtful whether we would be using electricity today.

Q How long would it take something to fall to the bottom of the deepest underwater ocean trench?
The Marianas trench is 35,835 feet, or 10,860 metres deep, and it would take about an hour for an object thrown overboard to fall right to the bottom.

Questions may be submitted via e-mail to: sci.net@campus.bt.com. Visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at: <http://www.technoquest.org.uk>. Questions and answers provided by Scienceline's Dial-A-Scientist on 0345 600444

UPDATE

THE OLDEST human footprint may have been found embedded in sandstone on the Eastern Cape coast of South Africa. David Roberts of the Council for Geoscience in Cape Town and Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg believe it could be twice as old as the footprints of Ligeia, dated to 117,000 years ago. They told the *New Scientist* that it is premature to make any definite claims until dating tests are complete.

EARTH-LIKE planets beyond our Solar System look a possibility. Astronomers say the planet-like objects are the size of Jupiter, suggesting they

are gassy giants that could not support life, unlike smaller, rocky planets like Earth. The scientists measured a slight dimming in light intensity as the large planets passed in front of a binary star system called CM Draconis. The dimming is clear evidence of distant planets, said Jon Jenkins, of NASA's Ames Research Center in California.

PHYSICISTS HAVE constructed the simplest imaginable electronic circuit – a single atom placed between two central banks of metal. Eleke Scheer and his colleagues at the Physikalisches Institut, at the University of Karlsruhe, say in the journal *Nature* that it may become

possible to design electrical circuits atom by atom.

FISHING TRAWLERS are destroying the world's largest nesting colony of olive ridges in the Bay of Bengal, according to *New Scientist*. Up to 500,000 female olive ridges used to come to Gahirmatha beach between December and May to lay some 50 million eggs. But for the second consecutive year no more than 50 turtles have appeared, and many thousands of dead ones have been washed ashore. Environmentalists blame trawlers who use nets up to 2 km long and 30 metres deep, which stop the females reaching their nesting beaches.

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Blind bard sees all

The poetry of John Heath-Stubbs 'keeps man alive'.
Michael Glover met him

WHEN THAT verbally luscious poet Algernon Charles Swinburne died in 1909, WB Yeats is supposed to have said: "Now I'm the King of the Kats!"

"Who is the King of the Kats?" I ask the blind poet John Heath-Stubbs, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Thursday.

Heath-Stubbs has known many poetical contenders - and pretenders - to the bardic throne in his time. He was up at Oxford with Larkin and Amis at the beginning of the Forties; he taught with Geoffrey Hill at Leeds in the Fifties. He was alive when Yeats and Eliot were overpowering cultural eminences. His own career as a published poet spans some 55 years.

Still he hesitates: "You may well ask," he replies eventually. Then the thickening silence falls again. The shutters of his sitting room off the Westbourne Grove, his home of 30 years, are half-closed, so our conversation is taking place in a kind of sepulchral half-light.

"I think Geoffrey Hill is probably the best living poet. Though I like Seamus Heaney personally, I do think his poetry is derivative."

Did Heaney not deserve the Nobel Prize, then?
His head falls forward, with its great shock of white hair. He tackles this question tangentially. "I'd like to think that I would refuse a prize that was denied to Henry James and Ibsen."

And why were they denied it? "It was partly to do with the Nobel's will, which, incidentally, he wrote in a railway carriage - it was very badly drawn up altogether, by the way - and which stipulated that it must go to somebody who had a positive attitude to life. So that's why it was refused to Ibsen, you see. The rules were later modified somewhat."

The conversation now swings from the best to the worst. Was there less drivel being written these days than during his formative years? Heath-Stubbs, being a traditionalist and a highly literary poet, thinks that performance poets get away with a lot of slapdash work, though he is not against them on principle.

What about John Ashbery? "That American? I can't make head or tail of his work. I avoided meeting him because I'd been told that if you gave him a bad review, you got death threats from his fans." Heath-Stubbs throws his head back and roars with laughter.

"He once published a long poem in two columns which he said was an imitation of certain kinds of American music where the voices seem to be answering each other. I said that we've been doing this in European music since the 13th century, but that the book would make a useful present for people with two heads."

That mention of death threats brings Philip Larkin, his Oxford contemporary, to mind again. Larkin was terrified of dying, and wrote an extraordinary poem, "Aubade", about that fear.

"Some people would call it a courageous poem, but I personally think it's cowardly. There is a statement that applies to it: The brave man dies once, but the coward dies many times before he dies."

Heath-Stubbs quite liked Larkin when they were young together, but essentially they were antithetical spirits - Heath-Stubbs, the passionately literary, mythopoetic poet, versus Larkin, the chronicler of ordinary, middle-class experience - and of his own frustrations. "I was absolutely appalled when I met him again at John Wain's house in the late Sixties. He'd become such an



John Heath-Stubbs: 'What we know of the world is simply limited by our five senses'

Nigel Fazzell

unpleasant person. He couldn't open his mouth without saying something spiteful about some friend or colleague."

I asked Heath-Stubbs whether he was afraid of death, and whether, as a Christian, he had any hope of immortality. "That is, of course, two questions. As to the first, the answer is, of course, yes. And it's inevitable, and at my age it's not going to be very far away."

The question of immortality is a difficult one to answer. I don't think that one should rule it out, if you see what I mean. But you're not committed to it. There's not one word about the immortality of the soul in the New Testament. Only about the resurrection of the body.

And did he believe in the resurrection of the body? "I think I can see what it means. I am, I suppose, to some extent a Berkeleyan idealist. What we know of the world is simply limited by our five senses, and that there is lots to do with the world that we cannot conceive."

"Take the seven-coloured spectrum ranging from red to violet, for example. That is a construction of our senses. It does not allow for the existence of ultraviolet. The spectrum fades from violet to red. There's simply no room for it. And

yet we know that certain birds and animals can see ultraviolet light. We don't know all there is to know about the world. We only know what our faculties allow us to perceive."

"To answer your question, it may be: Bang! Nothing! Or it may be that, all of a sudden, a greater reality, greater than anything we have ever conceived, bursts upon us."

I think about the nature of John Heath-Stubbs's own affliction. Did he think that blindness stimulated the visual imagination?

"I think it may in a curious kind

'EPITAPH'

BY JOHN HEATH-STUBBS

Mr HEATH-STUBBS as you must understand Came of a gentleman's family out of Staffordshire Of as good a blood as any in England But he was wall-eyed and his legs too spare.

His elbows and finger-joints could bend more ways than one And in frosty weather would creak audibly As to delight his friends he would give demonstration Which he might have done in public for a small fee.

Amongst the learned persons of his time Having had his schooling in the University of Oxford

In Anglo-Saxon Latin ornithology and crime Yet after four years he was finally not preferred.

Orthodox in belief as following the English Church Barring some heresies he would have for recreation

Yet too often left these sound principles (as I am told) in the lurch Being troubled with idleness, lechery, pride and dissipation.

In his youth he would compose poems in prose and verse In a classical romantic manner which was pastoral To which the best judges of the Age were not averse And the public also but his profit was not financial.

Now having outlived his friends and most of his reputation He is content to take his rest under these stones and grass Not expecting but hoping that the Resurrection Will not catch him unawares whenever it takes place.

From: *The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse*, edited by Philip Larkin, £17.99

of way. Milton's *Paradise Lost* is full of visual imagery, but it's visual imagery remembered. I'm particularly fond of that passage at the very end of the poem where the angels are said to rise like a mist or an exhalation from the marshes."

Heath-Stubbs writes with great sensitivity about his own experience of blindness in his autobiography, *Hindsight*. Many critics found the book too emotionally guarded. He had no regrets about that. "I detest confessional writings," he said.

But anyone who reads his most recent collection, *Galileo's Salad*, will find poems in that book which are emotionally open. "You can be revelatory in a poem much better than in cold prose."

And what did Heath-Stubbs think that poets were good for? "They keep the visionary potentiality of man alive," he replied.
A special edition of the magazine *Aquarius* in celebration of John Heath-Stubbs's 80th birthday has just been published, price £5, from Flat 4, 116 Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, London W9 2DP.
The *Literary Essays*, also newly published, are available from Carcanet Press, Fourth Floor, Conavon Court, 12-16 Blackfriars' Street, Manchester, M3 5BQ.

Shivers down the spine

Judith Bingham's new work is evocative. By Roderic Dunnett

PAUL SPICER, the Lichfield Festival's artistic director, is a dab hand at natty programming. This summer's festival in Dr Johnson's city included the soprano Alison Wells singing William Alwyn (his last song cycle, *Seascapes*), Gerard Schurmann (*Six Songs of William Blake*), a first hearing of Judith Bingham's touching short song *Unheimlich*, plus the world premiere of a set of new recorder pieces by Trevor Hold, *Gammer Gurton's Garland*.

The pianist Anna Markland, a former BBC Young Musician of the Year, played preludes by George Gershwin and Ivor Gurney. Percy Grainger's *Fantasy on Porgy and Bess* and Gershwin's rumbustious *Piano Concerto* (this being Gershwin centenary year) both lifted the roof.

The King's Singers brought Goffredo Petrassi's Italianised settings of *Edward Lear*, Spike Robin brought his tenor saxophone, and boogie-woogie master Axel Robinson his pianistic skills: Lichfield's Cathedral Choir

eloped to picturesque Hawksyard Priory, while the All Electric Puppet Theatre had a ghoulish show to make four-year-olds' spines tingle.

"Why does music send shivers down your spine?" quizzed one festival lecturer.

The question was vividly answered by Judith Bingham's new piano trio, *Chapman's Pool*, which received a deeply sensitive Midlands premiere from the Gould Piano Trio.

It is a beautifully conceived, thoughtful work, imaginatively written for the instruments.

It is by turns unnerving and disarmingly serene, and one of this perceptive composer's most lucid statements to date.

Miss Bingham seems as much at home in intimate chamber scoring as she does in the vivid, large-scale orchestra canvas (such as *Chartres*, *The Temple at Karnak*), or indeed, compact chamber writing.

In a pre-concert talk the composer discussed some of the wellsprings of the new work. While drawing like John

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LICHFIELD FESTIVAL
LICHFIELD

Casken, for instance) inspiration from the more rugged English landscape - in this case the cove-ridden and fossil-bedecked Isle of Purbeck in Dorset - Miss Bingham presents a landscape partially viewed, as it were, from above. This distanced perspective is enhanced by the unexpected death of her mother at the time of the work's composition.

This mysterious, almost disembodied feel, instantly audible, generates a tangible sense of Yeatsian wistfulness, though never of Hardy-esque pessimism. The style and treatment invokes, intriguingly, the kind of Haydn and Beethoven-rooted approach that underlies the chamber music of say, Rubbra, Beidge and Daniel Jones.

Its placing between Beethoven and Mendelssohn seemed doubly apt when a

rocking pattern not unlike the one prominent in the new work suddenly surfaced at the close of the Mendelssohn D-minor's *Andante*.

It is this mesmerising berceuse, heard first in strings and then piano, that sets the tone for the whole Bingham work. The disembodied feel is accentuated by short-bowed descending phrases in the violin; jerky triadic shifts in the keyboard part, eerily mimicked by legato violin and cello; acutely three- or four-note patterns in the striding third movement leading on to an elegiac cello cadenza; and the redemptive emergence on the piano in the finale (*Chapman's Pool*) of an impressionistically harmonised Dorset folk tune.

The Gould Trio's performance was gorgeously evocative, and the Mendelssohn fared equally well.

Till 12 July 01543 257557
Paul Spicer's biography of Herbert Howells is published by Seren Press next month

Threesome in an Escort

THEATRE

RITA, SUE & BOB TOO
WEST YORKSHIRE
PLAYHOUSE



Bob, Rita and Sue too

Keith Pattison

Adulterous Bob is crudely exploitative, but yet cheerily uncomplicated.

That the girls are underage is pitifully irrelevant and their sexual avidity is much like their appetite for crisps.

Meanwhile, though, the play is working away at something deeper than either of these

satisfied reactions. It is here that Natasha Betteridge's production fails to get the play to resist the way the audience wants to push it. A crucial keynote is Willie Ross's virtuoso but surely misconceived portrayal of Sue's drunken Dad. This is clever and hugely enjoyed, but, essentially a music

hall turn: it decides the tone in favour of caricature and helps dilute the play.

Thomas Craig's Bob is, by contrast, plausibly complex. Likeability rather than machismo is his attraction for the girls, though this coarsens damagingly in his dealings with his wife Michelle.

Nevertheless, apparently in control of so much, his vulnerability is soon exposed by unemployment, while swapping Michelle for Rita has little sense of choice about it.

The interpretive temptation here is to speak of the impoverishment of lives, and the sad lack of hope and ambition. But Dunbar gives no encouragement to such a perspective.

One loss, however, is evident. Rita and Sue, excellently played by Michelle Abrahams and Hannah Storey, are finally driven apart by Bob. We see nothing of Rita and her new baby, and nor does her friend. But the isolation is written all over Sue at the play's unresolved close.

Until 25 July: 0113 213 7700
JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

Latvia gives a show to remember

THE THREE Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, each have a long tradition of choral singing, culminating every five years in a massive vocal jamboree.

The Festival of Latvian Song and Dance which ended in Latvia's capital of Riga last Sunday is only the second since the Soviet yoke was thrown off, a fact which charged the atmosphere with a fierce pride.

The festival had begun earlier in the week, in a series of concerts and folk dance competitions that filled virtually every large venue in Riga and gradually grew in size as the days went by. The main clas-

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LATVIAN SONG AND
DANCE
LATVIA

sical event was a concert in the restored opera house, with music by an honorary Latvian: the *Mastersingers* overture of Wagner, whose third professional position, from 1837 to 1839, was as the first conductor of the new Riga opera; and music by Latvian composers such as the 1978 Violin Concerto by the 62-year-old Romualds Kalsons and the Fourth Symphony, *Ailantida*, by Latvia's leading 20th-cen-

tury symphonist, Janis Ivanovs (1906-83) - Strauss dipping his toes into *La Mer*.

But everything was dwarfed by the leviathan scale of the final day's activity. It began with a five-hour procession in which the near-16,000 participants set out from central Riga to march the eight kilometres to a huge stadium in the woods behind the town.

The sight that meets the audience which treks and drams out behind them is breathtaking: 13,000 singers banked high behind an army of 1,000 dancers and 2,000 wind band players, all in the traditional costumes of their own parts of Latvia. The concert itself lasts

some six hours and offers a range of music, calculated to maximise the identification of the audience with the material. Latvian folksongs, choruses from Latvian operas, chorals by contemporary composers such as Peteris Vasks and Peteris Plakidis, a medley or two of songs by Raimonds Pauls (the local Lloyd Webber), now the leader of a new political party, and national hymns, all taken up by the 30,000-plus listeners and pushed with fervour into the night sky.

The logistics of bringing variety to this army of colour and sound were handled with military precision: it took only minutes for the thousands of

singers to sweep down from the stage and cede it to the wind bands, who in turn moved effortlessly out of the way of the chains of dancers, hundreds at a time, snaking in from the wings. Then the tide of singers flowed back, filling again the tiers high above the elevated podium where a relay of conductors took turns to co-ordinate this gigantic body of sound.

And co-ordinate it they did: though keeping so many musicians together must be a test for the bravest nerves, the performances, judged purely on musical terms, were more than shapely and satisfying - they were also deeply moving.

particularly when every throat in a vast sea of ordinary people opened to take up a paean of gratitude for the survival of the nation, it brought up the hairs on the back of the neck in a fundamental emotion; it touched something instinctive in all of us.

The five-year rule for the presentation of the song festival is being twisted next time round. Riga will celebrate its 800th anniversary in 2001, so the festival is discreetly being shuffled forward a couple of years. Put it in your diary now, for you will carry the memory with you for the rest of your life.

MARTIN ANDERSON

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A few brown pots short of a picnic

From giant bees to broken bottles, young British designers have an agenda that challenges convention and seeks to provoke. By Alan Powers

EXHIBITIONS AT the Crafts Council sometimes have the dialectic quality of tennis. In one half of the court are a set of assumptions about what crafts are, or ought to be – we might call it the “brown pot school” for short. And at the other end is something which, in order to have a game, can be anything, provided it is not a brown pot.

The Crafts Council puts them into play quite even-handedly, because the important thing is to keep the ball rolling, although the game has been going on for at least 20 years. Still, nobody ever worries that tennis will go out of date.

“No Picnic” is an anti-“brown pot” exhibition, hard-edged and modern, as perhaps one can tell from the poster image of a bright blue bird on a leafy stem. The “picnickers” are aged between 25 and 35, and work in furniture, glass, textiles, jewellery, metalwork and text.

The title describes the difficulties of working in the design field as a maker of one-offs and small batches, refusing to compromise with the market and maintaining integrity as a critic of society.

If this sounds similar to the self-description of “brown pot” craftspeople, too, then one must realise that the No Picnickers are all keen on paradox – they are quite happy to play tennis with themselves, never letting the inner contradictions of their work and the fact that they themselves are doing it lie still for even a moment. As John Heath Stubbs once wrote: “If poems were Cadillacs, poets would probably drive them to the public mischief.”

Some objects in the exhibition are uncertain whether they are, figuratively speaking, poems or cars. Anand Zenz, who once designed Belgo Nord in Lodon's Chalk Farm, now makes T-shirts with slogans on

them, more challenging than the narcotic fine art slogans of Jenny Holzer, but still capable of development. Jenny Potter's metal objects, including a silver Tetrapak, use words playing on the themes of packaging and other subliminal verbal intrusions on our lives.

The jewellery by Shaun Leane brings to the picnic a variety of cage-like restraints for body or head, and some sharp, spiked earrings and bracelets which could repel unwanted advances.

Shelley Fox's dresses, on the other hand, invite touch with braille patterns in grey felt and surgical bandaging material, while Rebecca Earley shows textiles which are beautiful as well as provocative, particularly the patterns made by heat photograph from natural plant forms on to indigo.

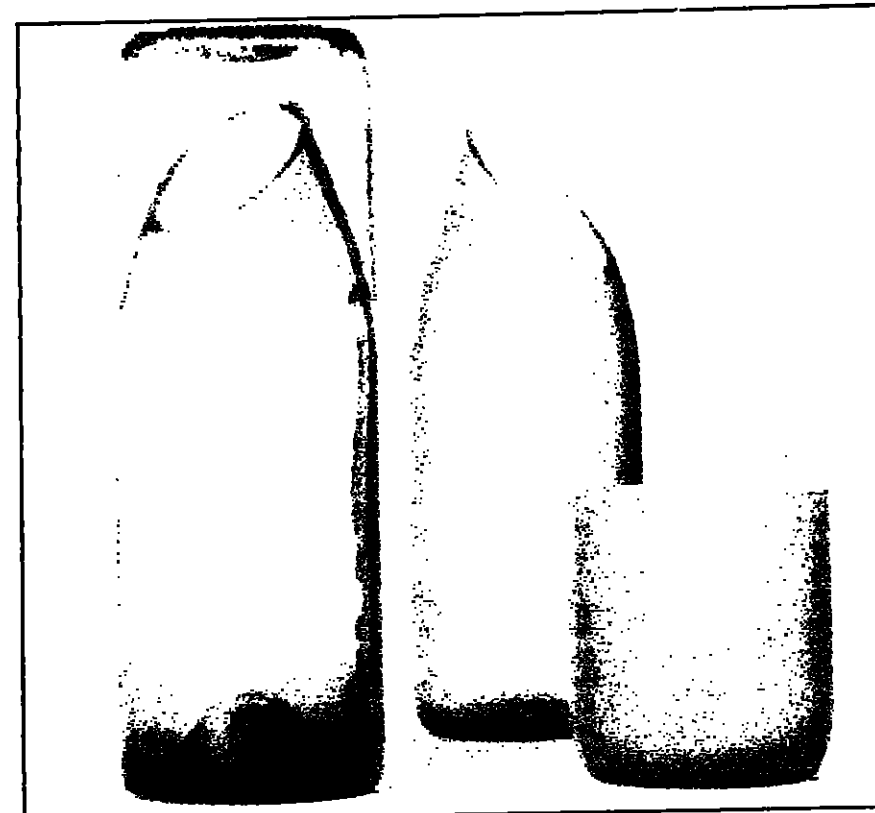
Timorous Beasts is a two-man textile design practice from Glasgow which uses a variety of printed imagery. This includes a design of giant bees which might have given nightmares to Napoleon; the French Emperor covered his furniture with his own, more discreet, bee emblem.

Precious McBane is a similarly jokey combination: designers of one-off furniture pieces who deliberately mix their metaphors.

Philosophers tend to use tables as token objects in discussions of reality and existence, and Michael Anastassiades lets no piece of furniture escape his ontological scrutiny. Here he shows side-tables which double as something else – mirror, alarm clock, or light.

Tord Boontje makes elegant furniture from the cheapest sections of wood, with the additions of other “found” materials.

Thoroughly practical chairs are padded with army blankets and held down with bindings of tough plastic



Top: sofa by Precious McBane; above left, broken bottle effect by TranSglass; above right, Napoleon's nightmare – a giant bee motif designed by Timorous Beasts

package tape. These are in the spirit of the architect Walter Segal's self-build houses of the 1970s and his belief that minimalism does not have to be the luxury of millionaires.

The message comes over clearly that this is craft, but not as you know it. “No Picnic” emphasises the growing articulateness in all sections of the craft world, which has rediscovered what William Morris knew 100 years ago – that if you are free in your work, you can, if you wish, begin to change the world.

Perhaps only recently have we even begun to acquire the theoretical know-how to see objects not just as conveniences or status symbols, but as essential aspects of our formation of self and of the world. That is a truth that children know instinctively and then forget, unless they themselves become makers.

If the work in “No Picnic” is at times extreme and irrational, it is a comment on the irrationality of the social world in which it is created. The verbal articulacy and skills in

marketing are now standard among many young designer-makers, and these help to give added edge to the long and arduous struggle against the oppression of master and man in capitalism, to which is now added the heaving monster engines of consumption.

While craft-making has been promoted as valuable small business (which is in itself a questionable claim), it has still to achieve the intellectual status of the more established arts disciplines – those which

can in fact properly be described as “useless”. The message here is clear and stark: “Make your objects useful and provocative, so that people will want to have them”. On the whole, that message looks like succeeding.

While the country as a whole seems to be full of appalling kitsch going under the name of craft, these urban 20 and 30-somethings are perhaps unnecessarily afraid of tenderness and beauty.

In a world of speaking objects,

they are raising their voices to be heard. They have learnt that the knife of social criticism is best twisted with a smile. Yet rather than continuing to play in the Crafts Tennis Tournament, “No Picnic” is more like the tennis net itself – the point of dialectical resolution between the eternal opposites.

“No Picnic” runs until 30 August at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44A Pentonville Road, London N1 (0171 278 7700)

THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 4: THE EUROSTAR TRAIN

So far, more than 200 millennium products have been chosen for their excellent design. Each week we will examine one of them.

DESIGN RARELY changes the way people think and operate. Yet, the Eurostar, whose revolutionary design and concept have been honoured with an inclusion in the Millennium Collection, has completely altered the way many Britons feel about Europe.

In one fell swoop – and a lot of planning, digging and investing – the rail service has forever linked the United Kingdom to the rest of Europe and put an end to the old-fashioned, little Englander, “fog in the Channel, Continent cut off” way of thinking.

The train, whose characteristic nose cone now more famous than Eric Cantona TV ads, looks beautiful as it speeds through the flat countryside of northern France.



A couple of bends in the track give an excellent opportunity to admire the 18 white carriages stretching out in the distance behind the aerodynamic locomotive.

Getting on to the Eurostar at London Waterloo International is a contrasting experience. Gliding from the mainland railway station on the down escalator, the spirit lifts

but the automatic check-in, requiring people to punch in their tickets (a strange hybrid of London Underground ticket barriers and the French railways compulsory compulsory postage) has not exactly been conceived with luggage-carrying in mind.

Even suspended metal fish ornaments will not win any awards for the claustrophobic

waiting-area in the terminal. However, as soon as you reach the platform, the sense of wonder returns.

On the Brussels run, I had the opportunity to climb into the space-age cockpit and see it from the driver's perspective.

Just getting to the front of the locomotive by snaking alongside the raucous engines was an amazing experience. The

view through the nose cone was breathtaking as we sped along at 300kph. Unfortunately, in Britain top speed is only 120kph. The service offers passengers a smooth ride, silent and comfortable, though noisy for people outside, whose gardens and houses back on to the train route.

It has cut travel times between the European capitals and those weekending Parisians and Bruxellois probably played a major part in the rise of Cool Britannia.

The Eurostar's biggest achievement might yet be to put an end to clichés such as “Britain and Europe”, which newsmongers and journalists fall back on all too easily.

It should be Britain and the rest of Europe. With Eurostar, both an ingenious mode of transport and a potent symbol of unity, the UK has really become part of a greater Europe.

PIERRE PERRONE

DESIGN LINES

ALEX GARLAND



At the beginning of Alex Garland's bestselling novel *The Beach* (published by Penguin, £5.99), Richard checks into a seedy Bangkok hotel. It proves to be a fateful move. The disturbed occupant of the next door room commits suicide – but not before giving Richard a map to a mythical paradise beach.

“QUARTER OF an hour later I was settling into a room that was little larger than a double bed. I can be accurate about it because there was a double bed in the room, and on each of its four sides was a foot of space. My backpack could just slide in the gap.

One wall was concrete – the side of the building. The others were formica and bare. They moved when I touched them. I had the feeling that if I leant against one it would

fall over and maybe hit another, and the walls of the neighbouring rooms would collapse like dominoes. Just short of the ceiling, the walls stopped, and covering the space was a strip of metal mosquito netting. The netting almost upheld the illusion of a confined, personal area – until I lay down on the bed. As soon as I relaxed, stopped moving, I began to hear cockroaches scuttling round the other rooms.

On my ceiling was a fan, strong enough to stir the air on full setting. For a while I did nothing but lie on the bed and look up at it. It was calming, following the revolutions, and with the mixture of heat and soft breeze I felt I could drift asleep.

I heard the man's footsteps. A muttered stream of British swear words floated into my room as he jiggled the padlock on his door.

Then there was a loud

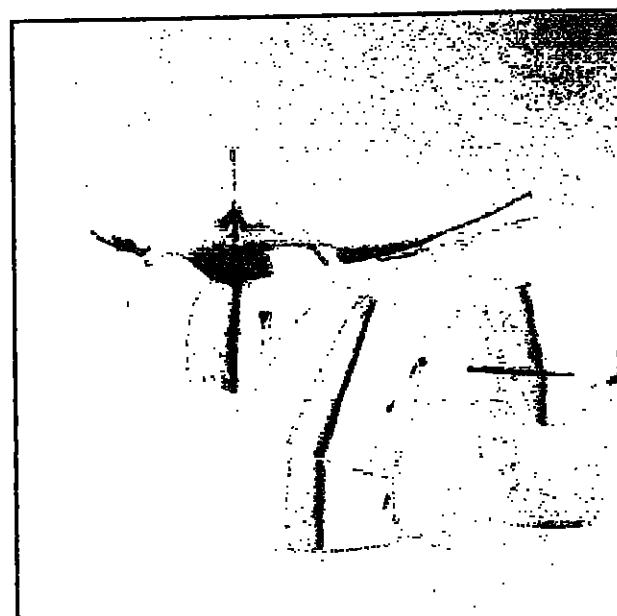
sigh, the lock opened with a click, and his light came on.

The mosquito netting cast a patterned shadow on my ceiling.

The man slumped onto his bed, making the wall between us shake alarmingly. He coughed for a while, then I heard the rustle of a joint being rolled. Soon there was blue smoke caught in the light, rolling through the netting.

Apart from the occasional deep exhalation, he was silent.

TOMORROW'S WORLD



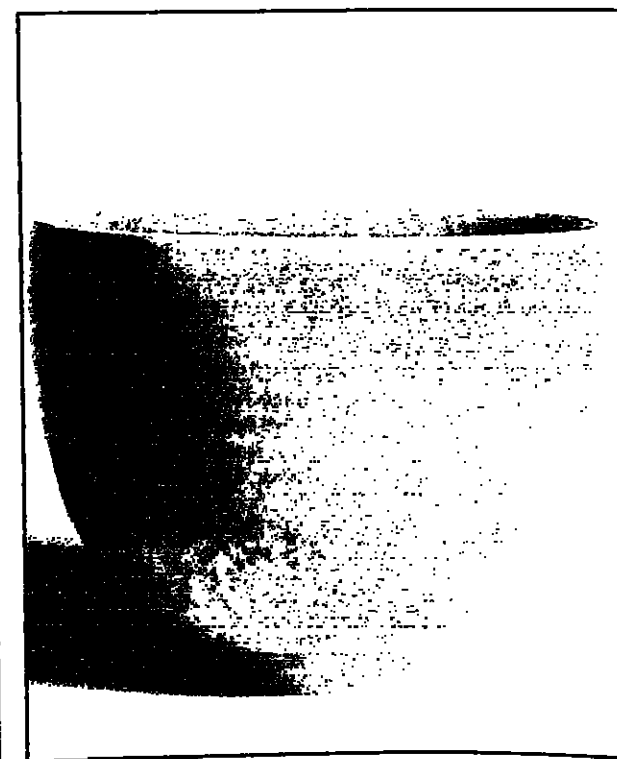
SIR TERENCE Conran has always kept abreast of the times, introducing us to bean bags and chicken bricks in the Sixties (Habitat opened in 1964) and to designer everything at the Conran Shop which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Still on track, his new London shop, the Conran Collection, is a showcase for the very Nineties, very Wallpaper school of decorating – all leather and wood and navy and cream throws and ceramics.

The new shop, based in the old Nigerian Airways office in the West End, has been three years in the planning and a frenzied three months on site. It is pure Sir Terence: some 70 per cent of the handsome merchandise was designed by him.

Products include cheap essentials (Casper dinner service, from £1.95 an item), practical pleasures (silver-plated Minima teapot with trug handle, £49, above left), exquisite, eggshell-light “Cross” porcelain bowls (£25 small, £39.95 large), and the luxurious wool and mohair Igloo bedspread (£325). The Conran Collection, 12 Conduit Street, London W1 (0171 399 0710)

THE POTTER Rupert Spira has a keen following for his chunky tableware in the tradition of Michael Cardew and Henry Hammond. His one-off pots are more exotic, drawing inspiration from medieval Chinese glazes – burnished copper reds, delicate celadons and greys (below left). Until 5 August at the Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford (01865 242731)



Guaranteed to light your fire

You don't have to be a smoker, but it helps. The silver bean lighter is fast becoming a design classic. By Shena Mackay

Beans are inherently satisfying in a way that has nothing to do with their nutritional value or as the choice of a million housewives; it is the shape of this pulse, defined by the dictionary as a smooth, laterally flattened, kidney-shaped seed, that makes it so attractive.

The silver bean cigarette lighter appeared some years ago as an instant design classic, fulfilling the criteria of beauty and usefulness. When I told the friend who gave me mine that it was to be eulogised and photographed, she expressed some proprietorial dismay, saying: "now everybody will want one".

Bean people still see themselves as belonging to a club, albeit with a growing membership; when two rival silver beans vie for the same unit cigarette a spark of recognition flares, even if the rapport dies with the flame. To handle a bean cigarette lighter is to want one: "Lovely to look at, lovely to hold" just about sums up the heat of it, the smoothness, the curve that fits the finger whether you are left or right handed.

However, the bean carries no logo or mark and, although I've seen them in shops in London, I couldn't tell you the name of a regular stockist.

You don't even have to be a smoker to appreciate the bean. Remember that other old slogan "Whatever the pleasure, Players complete it"? So it is with the bean, which can be used to light birthday cake candles, campfires, joss sticks or blue touch paper. It can also convert to a worry-bean after you've given up smoking, when a bean concealed in the hand is more reassuring and stress-absorbent than a string of worry-beads.

While the prototype is silver, these genetically engineered beans come in assorted colours now: some are lightweight jolly jelly beans, and while the anodised blue has the authority of the original and best, the gilt on a gold bean given to another friend as a 40th birthday present soon wore off, exposing a silver bean in disguise.

Because the bean is essentially a shell, about 21ms long and containing a disposable lighter, nobody need suffer the social shame of being seen with the wrong-coloured bean. You could be like the couple in the television ad who swap clip-on mobile phone covers to match their outfits, or you could amass a wardrobe of beans, fitting the lighter to the occasion. What could be more appropriate than a black bean to torch a treacherous lover's possessions, or light that funeral pyre or the post-

service Black Russian Sobranie at the crematorium? A marmoreal white bean tucked into the bride's lacy garter always adds ceremony to those pre-wedding-photo gaspers in the churchyard. On National No Smoking Day ash-grey beans will be worn, and weekenders who want to blend in with the locals should never leave town without that essential haricot vert in their Barbour pocket.

Even if it were possible to possess a bean in every pastel shade of a box of cocktail cigarettes, and for all I know there are customised, jewel-encrusted, monogrammed platinum beans, the silver will always be the classiest, a bean for all seasons. Whatever the colour of its shell, though, it's not the bean in your life but the life in your bean that counts - and it takes the smallest and cutest Bic refill which, according to its own colour, gives your bean a black or lipstick-red trigger.

These mini-lighters retail at about 40p and are not available

What could be more appropriate than a black bean to torch a treacherous lover's possessions?

everywhere, so once you've found a newsagent who carries them, make sure you stock up.

Gone are the days when an onyx or Wedgewood table lighter was an acceptable wedding or retirement gift and much of the fun has gone out of smoking. Diehards can still enjoy the paraphernalia and rituals of the habit - snipping the capsule of lighter fuel, soaking the wadding and stuffing it back in, the futile clicking when the flint has gone, replacing the flint, unrolling that yellowed pouch, tamping tobacco into the bowl of a pipe with a horny thumbnail, the machine for rolling cigarettes and the cigarette paper, preferably liquorice flavoured, that rips the skin from the lips - but, as they acknowledge with a bitter laugh, they are an endangered species. We live in times where smokers hounded into the street outside their office buildings are at risk not only from the elements but also from the verbal assault of the passing proselyte.

I was a good loser as a child: sent to the shop for 10 Weights or 10 Woodbines, I would lose the money on the way. I was also good at finding things but never the coins that disappeared by

some malign magic from my hand or pocket, and memories of searching the verges and pavements of Canterbury are seared on my consciousness. Once, a kind lady helped me to look in vain for a shilling on a bomb-site where broken glass and pieces of tinfoil glittered like so much false coinage - fool's silver - to raise my hopes only to dash them.

I re-experienced the old familiar jolt of loss and disbelief recently when, home from a walk with the family in the park, I put my hand in my pocket for my silver bean and pulled out a smooth, kidney-shaped pebble. I remembered picking up the stone, and I also remembered flinging it back on the grass, but not precisely at what point on the walk I had done this. This could only mean that I had mistaken the bean for the pebble and that it was lying either in acres of parkland or in somebody else's pocket. The bean had become a throwaway lighter.

To my immense relief, it transpired that it was safe in a handbag and had never left the house and the projected scenario of hopelessly retracing my footsteps and searching the shops for a replacement was removed. I am not such a good loser as I used to be, nor yet quite so anthropomorphic that I imagined the bean lonely and forlorn as darkness fell, but I still hate losing things and I would have particularly hated losing the bean.

If you ask anybody to name a cigarette lighter they will come up with the Zippo, and the Colibri still hums along; I have an ancient one and also a windproof lighter made in China engraved with the words, "It fights against the wind whenever you ride your car keeping window open".

The earliest cigarette lighter I remember belonged to my grandfather and was made of brass, with a stiff wheel that scorched and blackened the thumb of any child who tried to turn it. All these lighters have, or had, their place but, in terms of desirability, they fall short of the silver bean.

Even though I was not a smoker when I saw it, one poignant scene in the film *Whistle Down The Wind* has always stayed with me. Alan Bates, who is hiding in a barn, asks Hayley Mills to get him some "snout". She steals a packet of cigarettes from the mantelpiece at home and takes them to him but she hasn't thought to get any matches. Even as he tells her dejectedly that it doesn't matter you know that he knows it's all up with him. For want of a bean the battle was lost.

Shena Mackay's new novel, *The Artist's Widow*, is published by Cape (£12.99) this week. Her other novels are available from Vintage.

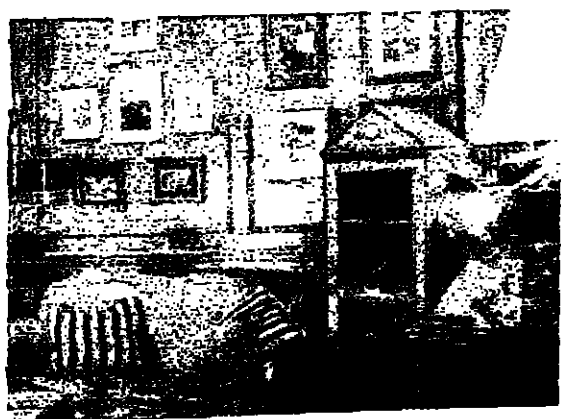


Shena Mackay's silver bean is anything but disposable - she was distraught when she thought she had lost it

Adrian Den-

DESIGN DETAILS

CAROLYN HART



THE VICTORIANS started it. Elie Macpherson, Kate Moss, Madonna, Mel Gibson and Sharon Stone made it famous, and David Tang took it into the millennium: his exclusive cigar club in Hong Kong turned cigar smoking into an international pastime and left a whole host of recently repatriated smokers gasping for a similar joint in London after the big handover last year.

They did not have to wait long: a slew of cigar bars has recently opened in the capital, attracting a whole new clientele of trendy young things in search of a good time.

Many clubs are members only, so call for details. But check out Churchill's Cigar Bar and Divan (above), the plush, bomb-like smokers' retreat at the Churchill Intercontinental Hotel, Portman Square, London W1 (0171-486 5800). The No 1 Cigar Club in Percy Street, London W1 has a Cuban feel to it and is open to all comers seeking refuge from the increasingly stringent no-smoking rules (0171-636 8141). Try the Havana Club at

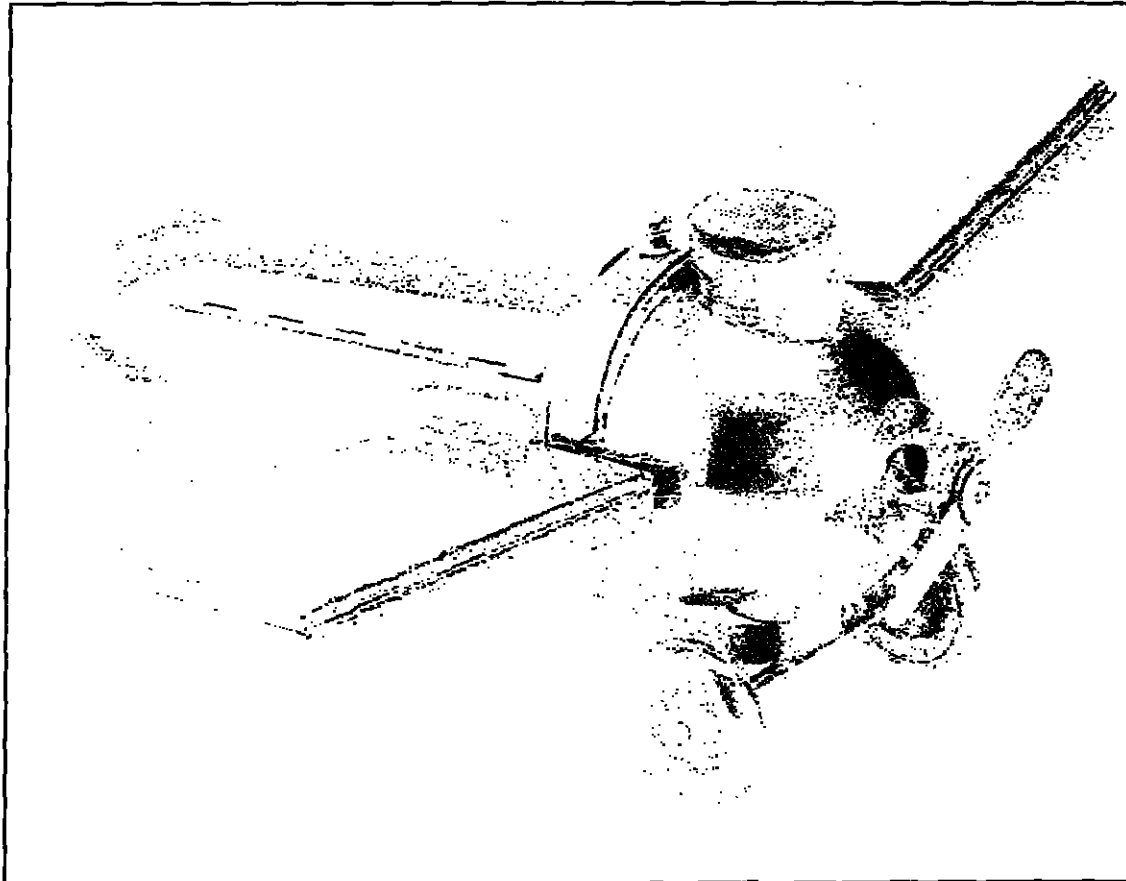
Monte's, 164 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-245 0892); the Front Room, 316 Lillie Road, London SW6, and the Back Bar at Boisdale's, 15 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (0171-730 6922). The Dorchester Hotel also holds cigar and champagne evenings; for further details ring 0171-629 8888.

WHAT TO smoke when you get there: Graham Wells, resident director of the No 1 Cigar Club, recommends the following: St Luis Rey A, £9.25 each - a pleasant, well-balanced smoke for the connoisseur; Cohiba Robustos, a modern take on the short and stubby, £14.65 each; Monte Cristo No 4, £7.20 each, perfect for the novice; and the Hoyo de Monterey Epicure No 1, £10.55 each, for those looking for a smooth, long finish.

Don't smoke, but love the smell? Rush out and buy Demeter's Leather or Wood Smoke fragrance sprays (£12 from Harvey Nichols) - far less trouble than a peat fire and ecologically sound to boot.



SMOKERS IN search of a Beanie lighter can find the £3.50 version in chrome or gold at Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 and tobacconists across the country. Upmarket Beanies in brass (£40) or sterling silver (£195) can be found at Tiffany & Co, 25 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-409 2790). Tobacco groupies can spend a fortune on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes at Alfred Dunhill, 48



Jermyn St, London SW1 (0171-290 8606). Harrods Tobacco Department, Brompton Road, London SW1 (0171-730 1234), and marvel at the range of snuff on offer at G. Smith & Sons, 74 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-836 7422) - or just drop in to sniff the atmosphere. Stubbing out can be done with style in a Conran ashtray. Most covetable of all is a tape-measure model at Sartoria, or

the highly designed Bluebird Club ashtray (bottom left). Naturally you won't just nick them, so phone Conran Restaurants for details (0171-718 0716).

Even if you don't smoke, smoking accessories are still worth buying. "Le Smoking" jacket, Yves St Laurent's classic take on men's tailoring for women, is one of the world's most sought after vintage pieces. This Sep-

tember Christie's are holding an auction of late 19th century Vesta match boxes, a Thomas Johnson vesta case, 1889, (top left) enamelled with a study of Mr Jorrocks at the Handley Cross Fancy Ball and nude on shoreline, 1905 (top right) or owl-shaped silver owl case (bottom right) with applied boot button eyes. 1894, est £400-£500. Over 280 objects will be up for grabs, prices £300-£2000.

The Pullman Gallery at 14 King St, St James's, London SW1 (0171-930 9595), opens with an exhibition of objets de luxe (1880-1950), including lighters, cigar boxes and collectibles such as this rare smoker's companion in the form of an airplane (main picture); the fuselage is a cigar case, the wings house the cigarettes, the propeller is a cigar cutter and the cockpit holds matches and a striker.

Sheffield's pop-pickers paradise

Opening next spring, the National Centre for Popular Music in Sheffield looks set to be a hit. By Nonie Niesewand

THE SUN shone in Sheffield on Wednesday upon the latest – and not quite the last – dazzling product to be made in their steel works. The National Centre for Popular Music will not open until next spring, but the museum of pop music, from jazz to techno, took an early bow to celebrate sponsorship to the tune of £600,000.

Without any building typology to go by, its architect, Nigel Coates, was freed from boring rectilinear grids. So he dubbed and mixed his own music centre, like four great stacks of CDs made of steel. He calls them drums, but, clad in steel plates, they resemble more a Buckminster Fuller dome than a cylindrical tower.

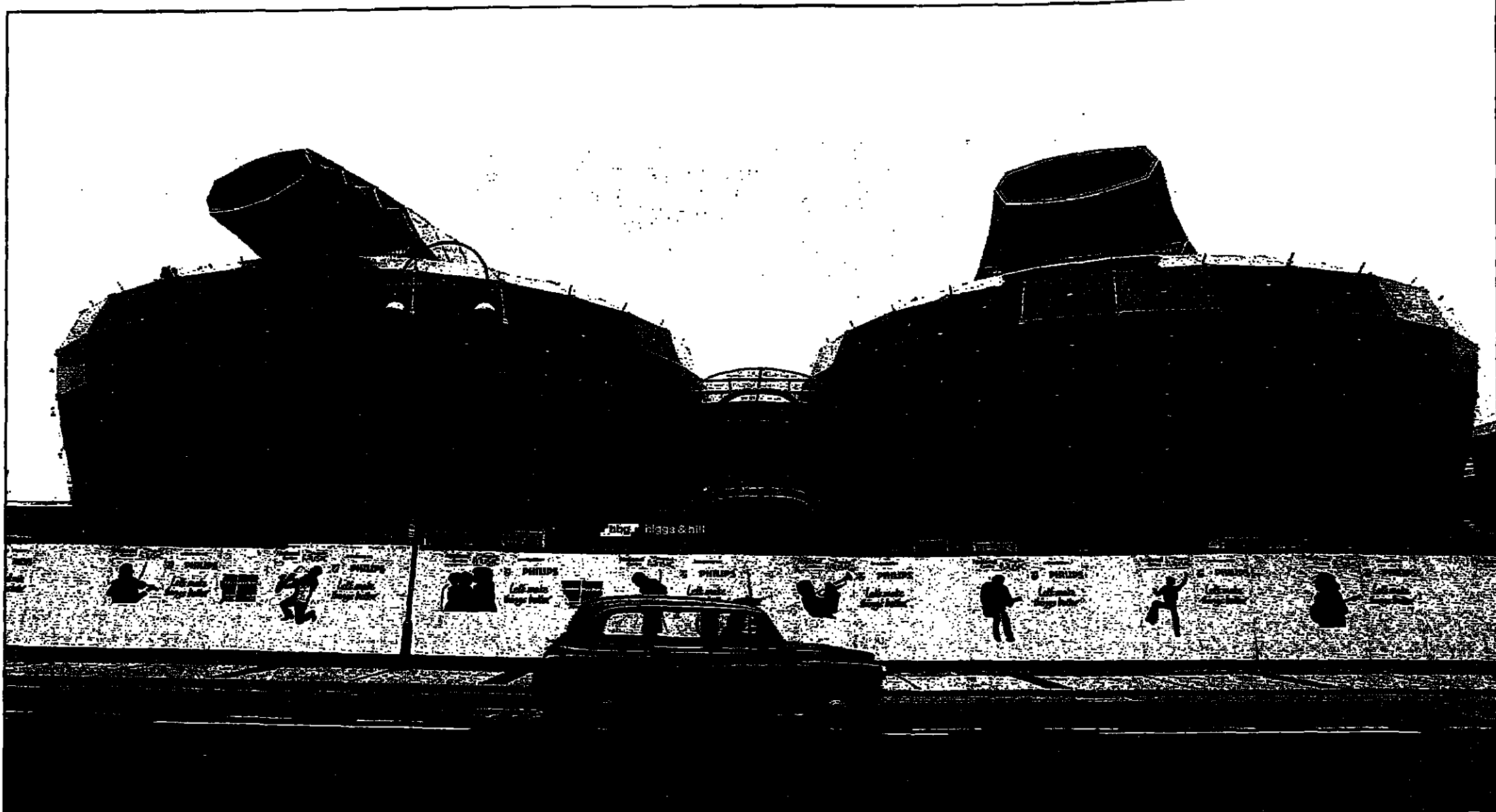
Set at four corners of the site, and linked with a glass shelter overhead, the space between the four drums looks on ground plan like a Celtic cross. This impression is reinforced by the great steel girders of orange, woven like gigantic circuitry into the glass ceiling. The cruciform aspect is important to give the design a dynamism between the four towers: "the sort of energy that you find at Stonehenge," says Coates. "The whole cluster sort of jives."

Crucifixion is also on the mind of the Lord Mayor, Frank White, 67, who will not be drawn on the support – or lack of it – from the local press for this controversial project. "All I will say is that I am sick of the letters page full of whingers lamenting the fact that Sheffield's got this new building. I've passed this place regularly, and I thought it was something from space, a moonshot. I was a bit wary of it at first. But as it went up, it grew on me, and I hope that Sheffield people will take it to their hearts. Personally, I can't stand square boxes."

Breaking away from boxes with these perfect circles has also been good for the environment. The steel cowl on the top of each drum gently revolves in the wind, drawing in air through funnels shaped like an aircraft engine to ventilate the interior. These funnels are controlled by a sensor that keeps it facing the wind, so that the building sucks in air, cools it and breathes it back up through the exhibition floors. The system will drastically reduce the centre's need for air-conditioning. From a distance, these rooftop funnels look like record-player pick-ups in the days when they spun vinyl.

"Nothing so representational as a record-player," Nigel Coates counters. "More like a juke-box – not in shape but in the way in which you use the building. It draws you into the space and you make your own selection inside the four drums."

The entrance is a real lure. Improbably cantilevered into a projectile curve, like Mick Jagger's tongue set in cement, the vast overhang is supported on what looks like orthodox wire. Coates is famous for his shock tactics. Take the Café



Sheffield's new futuristic pop museum, above, is growing on the locals; below, Nigel Coates, the designer of the building, who is known for using shock tactics

Bongo in Tokyo, where he crash-landed half of a real airliner into the facade. Or the Jigsaw in London's Knightsbridge, with its huge copper horn trumpeting its presence.

Sheffield County Council not only gave him planning permission for this radical and exciting new centre for pop, but they also exhibit an attitude that could set an example for councils everywhere. They make things happen to kick-start industry and draw together the community. The urban regeneration of this quarter of Sheffield began with the recording studios next door that pull in top musicians. (Finlay Quay records all his albums here.) Then they built the biggest cinema complex outside London. Links with Sheffield University persuaded them to build a tourist attraction that mixes science with culture and media. The National Centre for Popular Music is the hub.

Councillor Narendra Bajara calls the new National Centre for Pop Music a "gateway to the city" – a landmark building that reflects

Sheffield's traditional industry. "We're known as steel city. And this building moves us onto the next millennium with a science park, technology and culture, with great interaction between three sectors."

The Arts Council awarded the centre £11m in December 1996. Now, sponsors catering for tourists rather than arts-lovers are dipping into their pockets to pull together the contents. They've got some good ones: MTV, the Guinness Book of Records, Emap, the Royal Bank of Scotland (helping on ticketing with a guaranteed entry time to avoid queuing), and the Performing Rights Society, the watchdog for music rights. Philips is creating a wraparound auditorium for sight and sound.

Shung by the image of down-and-out Sheffield in the post-industrial age as depicted in *The Full Monty*, Sheffield Council is facing the new millennium with new industries and a new spirit. "The past was wonderful, but we've got to move on," says the mayor, Frank White. He



is hoping that Frank Sinatra qualifies for inclusion in the pop museum.

In fact, just about every singer since 1940 will. Once inside, a changing video sculpture suspended from the ceiling reflects pop music around its world. Two drums deal with the history and culture of pop, not chronologically but using artists to tell the story.

"You'll go from Billie Holiday to

Radiohead in the space of five minutes," says Tim Strickland, the creative director. In one of the drums, you learn about instruments, make your own sounds and mix your own music from around the world. The wraparound circular space with its large-scale films and projections celebrates pop stars and shows, and a temporary gallery has special exhibitions, from photos on reggae

to portraits from *Rolling Stone*. A former punk-reggae singer from the Seventies, Tim Strickland has an archival idea of pop culture.

He never sported a pink Mohican because, as he points out, it never caught on north of Watford. "London was structured and spiky. We were more into the music," he says. Besides, he was fired for not singing well enough, so he is the perfect man to road-test ideas, a wannabe pop star. He has a visionary idea of display for the 21st century which involves sight and sound and the interactive games, and makes the Millennium Dome's object-driven scavenger hunt seem rather dated.

Research shows that people love memorabilia, but the exhibition organisers are wary of it since it seems old-fashioned to have things in display cases. By avoiding memorabilia, they are recognising the ephemeral nature of pop. Interactive displays are much easier to change than auction-house purchases. Because the centre is to be educational, they have cut down on

sound-booths and there are not many headsets. They want people to participate, not just stand around listening to music.

There is a fashion for architects to name a piece of music that inspired their building. Daniel Libeskind bemused an audience at the Clure Gallery when he likened his brilliantly faceted Jewish Museum in Berlin to a composition by Schoenberg, and Renzo Piano tells us that his Kenzo airport is like a piece of Miles Davis jazz. But Coates won't be drawn on the composition that he would like to his building. "It's not like music, it is more of a gramophone, in the end," he says, "a building that allows you your own experience."

I hope he won't take it amiss when I select Queen's *Flat-Bottomed Girls* as a ballad for his futuristic building. It is not a reflection of its shape, which is beautiful, but rather of the gravity-defying way in which he turns pear shapes upside down and suspends them on those totally transparent glass bases.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Calls cost 50p per minute and should last no longer than 2 minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 12th July 1998. The travel prize cannot be taken on bank holidays or the Christmas period. Usual Independent Newspaper rules apply. Editors decision is final. All entrants must be 18 or over.

Prize schemes fail to beat the twee

Award-winning homes do not meet leading-edge technology of tomorrow. By Nonie Niesewand

ANYBODY BUYING into a housing estate in Britain today knows exactly what the word "twee" means.

Housing developments like those which yesterday won awards for the best designs in England and Northern Ireland, fit that description.

In total, the three schemes that won the Housing Design Awards represent only 130 dwellings – just a blip on Labour's commitment to provide 4.4 million new homes within 20 years.

They are certainly popular: All of them, bar three which are under offer, have been sold.

Nevertheless, no matter how unasservingly they land in the town or country; no matter how popular, well considered, landscaped or modestly priced, these buildings are not at the cutting edge of the construction industry's demands for the next century.

A group of eight houses on the fringes of the Suffolk coast has won one of the awards. As leaders in modern design this development is not impressive, but it does comprise a warm, friendly place, just a footpath stroll from the village. The judges commend the scheme for fitting as "snuggly into the village as an oyster in its shell".

The architect, Hugh Pilk-

ington, managed to change the original plan for six bland "executive commuter" boxes into more agreeable brick and weather-boarded, pan-tiled country houses with an overhang for privacy, and the small windows that pass for energy conservation these days.

A project to turn a department store into apartments in downtown Manchester was another award-winner. Eighty open-plan apartments and a penthouse carved out of three storeys was described by the judges as "how the Unité d'Habitation might have looked if le Corbusier had supported Manchester United."

This in-joke between architects about the Marseilles building (1947-52) with its giddy roofscape and exposed concrete does not alter the fact that there is nothing pioneering in design about this piece of urban regeneration.

Its architects (who double as the developers), Urban Splash, cleverly exposed a hidden atrium and used it to light an inner garden in the well.

They kept the columns, built a gym in the basement, introduced mezzanine floors to high-ceilinged apartments and linked the nearby car park with a smart-card entry through a walkway.

All good ideas, but nothing radical here.

"Dense, lush landscaping planted in bold blocks of foliage colour". This is how the judges describe 41 houses in an estate on the outskirts of Basingstoke, owing to their autumnal shades in cedar-wood, their brick, tiles and gravel – even the garden, out of season.

This third winner of the best Housing Design award comes from a family firm, Redway, which bought two lots of land from Hampshire County Council. This is Phase Two, on land set aside for a school that was never built.

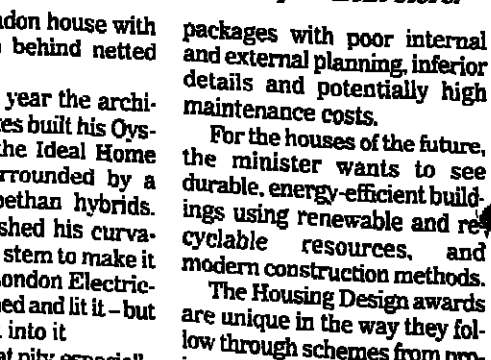
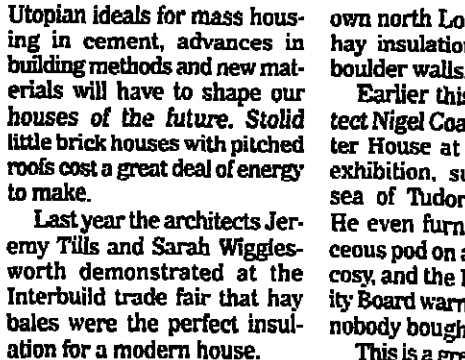
The demographic trend is away from family houses, towards more singles – a mixture of first home-owners and elderly residents, neither of whom want to live with small children.

New houses should be cheaper and more flexible. David Gann, professor of innovation at the University of Sussex, believes that most of our new houses are the architectural equivalent of a 1965 Ford Anglia. "No real customer choice, not enough new housing, and all simply too expensive. We need only change materials and construction methods to save on energy costs."

Just as le Corbusier set his



Redway's Danes Mead at Old Basing in Hampshire (top) is coddled in lush landscaping. Friendly Chapelfield at Orford, Suffolk (bottom left) and Manchester's Smithfield scheme (bottom right), are built on land that was once a department store.



Utopian ideals for mass housing in cement, advances in building methods and new materials will have to shape our houses of the future. Stolid little brick houses with pitched roofs cost a great deal of energy to make.

Last year the architects Jer-

emy Tills and Sarah Wigglesworth demonstrated at the Interbuild trade fair that hay bales were the perfect insulation for a modern house.

Despite jokes about the three little pigs and huffing, puffing wolves, they have planning permission to build their

own north London house with hay insulation behind netted boulder walls.

Earlier this year the architect Nigel Coates built his Oyster House at the Ideal Home exhibition, surrounded by a sea of Tudorbethan hybrids. He even furnished his curvaceous pod on a stem to make it cosy, and the London Electricity Board warmed and lit it – but nobody bought into it.

This is a great pity, especially as Hilary Armstrong, Housing and Local Government Minister, stated that the Government did not want design-built

packages with poor internal and external planning, inferior details and potentially high maintenance costs.

For the houses of the future, the minister wants to see durable, energy-efficient buildings using renewable and recyclable resources, and modern construction methods.

The Housing Design awards are unique in the way they follow through schemes from project stage to completion, so there is a chance for good ideas to flourish. Let us hope we see some in the 1999 selection of prizewinning houses.

MUSIC

The show must go on...

When the band they're in starts playing a different tune, some groups discover a strong streak of pragmatism. By Pierre Perrone

According to the statement issued earlier this week by The Verve, their record company Virgin and their manager Jazz Summers, guitarist Nick McCabe has not left the group, he just "will not be touring with the band for the rest of this year."

Wigan's finest have been here before. In 1995, following an ill-fated American tour, McCabe left and Ashcroft, Jones, drummer Peter Salisbury and second guitarist and keyboard-player Simon Tong tried to soldier on as a four-piece. They also attempted to lure former Stone Roses guitarist John Squire and ex-Suede axeman Bernard Butler into the fold. It didn't quite work out, though, and they buried the hatchet with McCabe.

On the Richter scale of rock 'n' roll seismic splits, this is a minor tremor, the equivalent of Kajagoogoo without Limahl or Haircut One Hundred without Nick Heyward. Bigger, better acts than The Verve have overcome worse setbacks than one member leaving in a huff.

Take the Moody Blues, who in 1966 recruited Justin Hayward and John Lodge to replace Denny Laine and Clint Warwick and came up with *Nights In White Satin*. Take guitarist John McKay and drummer Kenny Morris, who did a runner on Siouxsie And The Banshees at the beginning of a tour in 1979 following an argument in an Aberdeen record store. Siouxsie and bass-player Steve Severin drafted in Budgie on drums, borrowed Robert Smith from support band The Cure and picked up the schedule 10 days later.

Or take Kevin Rowland and trom-

bonist "Big" Jimmy Patterson sacking the rest of Dexy's Midnight Runners in 1980 and then going on to record *Come On Eileen* two years later. Or, please, take Trevor Horne and Geoff Downes of The Buggles joining Yes to replace Jon Anderson and Rick Wakeman in a free transfer from Buggles...

Genesis have survived some major surgery, changing drummers, guitarists and, most famously, frontmen a couple of times. When Peter Gabriel left in 1975, they auditioned several vocalists (even Nick Lowe, the former Brinsley Schwarz bassist later on Stiff and now a solo artist) and eventually promoted Phil Collins from within the ranks.

As the drummer recalls, the change "had its pluses. The good news was, after Gabriel left reviewers stopped thinking that he had written all the music." Collins concedes that, from the early 80s onwards, his solo career put pressure on the relationship with his colleagues. Collins left a couple of years ago but former Stiltskin vocalist Ray Wilson has since fitted in nicely, alongside Tony Banks and Mike Rutherford.

In the final analysis, money is what keeps a band going. In 1978, even the supposedly radical Sex Pistols tried to cover up Johnny Rotten's departure by pushing Sid Vicious to the fore. Drummer Paul Cook maintains the Pistols "never considered carrying on with another singer. There was never a serious audition to find another Johnny Rotten. Trying out Eddie Tudor-Pole (later of medieval new wave act Tenpole Tudor) was done pretty much for the fun. We couldn't have replaced Rotten and gone on calling ourselves the

Sex Pistols, so we concentrated on cutting a few tracks for the *Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle* soundtrack. I knew it was all over." The original Pistols reformed two years ago for a less than successful world tour.

A good piece of advice seems to be, if you're going to leave a major band, make sure you maximise your future income by getting your songs included in their latest project. Izzy Stradlin, guitarist and one of the main writers with Guns 'n' Roses, jumped ship in 1991 after contributing to both their *Use Your Illusion* major-selling sets.

The royalties should still be ticking over nicely. Sometimes you don't have a choice. On 1992's *Mondo Bizarro*, the Ramones still used

former bass player Dee Dee for his songwriting abilities after kicking him out of the band. No wonder the single he penned for them was called *Poison Heart*.

Of course, you can always sell your minority interest in the franchise for a percentage. When Martin Ware and Ian Craig Marsh left The Human League to form Heaven 17, Phil Oakey and Adrian Wright agreed to pay the others one per cent of all future earnings. Having recruited the alluring Joanne Catherall and Suzanne Sulley, the Human League then scored a worldwide No 1 with *Don't You Want Me* in 1981.

Nice dividends for Martin and Ian. Demand may not always be there for an act harking back to former glo-

ries with a dwindling number of original members. Last week at the Albert Hall, Earth Wind And Fire, with only two survivors (vocalist Philip Bailey and bassist Verdine White) from the classic 70s line-up, were a parody of their former selves.

Mind you, worse travesties have been perpetrated. In 1971, New York guitarist Doug Yule led a Velvet Underground with no original members, even recording the *Squeeze* album without Lou Reed. Echo and The Bunnymen had the cheek to carry on without Ian McCulloch, though they've all made up now. In 1989, David Crosby, Roger McGuinn and Chris Hillman played as The Byrds to establish their legal rights to the name which the other two original

members, Gene Clark and Michael Clarke, were staking a claim for.

The worst example was the bogus Fleetwood Mac. In its original incarnation, the group had survived the departure of Peter Green, but in 1973, former manager Clifford Davis assembled a band to fulfil touring commitments. For years, drummer Mick Fleetwood seethed at the memory. "We had to sue them in order to get our name back! This was ridiculous, since my name and John's (McVie, the bass player) served as the basis for the band's trademark!"

Lindsey Buckingham, who joined what was to be the definitive Mac line-up, along with Stevie Nicks in 1974, recalls what it felt like to take part in this game of musical chairs.



Left: Nick McCabe; above, the original Fleetwood Mac

"For a long time, I had to play Bob Welch tunes. Peter Green tunes, stuff by people who had left the group before I joined. In a sense, I was a lounge player in a group, which was not an easy thing. Philosophically, though, it provided me with a slow progression. It wasn't an easy progression, but it was a solid one."

Of the thirteen Fleetwood Mac line-ups, the tenth, the one with Mick, John, Lindsey, Stevie and Christine McVie, really hit paydirt, proved the longer lasting and eventually reunited last year. Christine looks back at all the trials and tribulations with a wry smile.

"From the first rehearsal, we knew we were going to be sensational. Unfortunately, there were more problems after Rumours. John and I split. Stevie and Lindsey broke up. Mick got divorced. None of us were happy."

The ultimate departure of a crucial member doesn't necessarily have to mean the end of a band. The Doors carried on after Jim Morrison's death. After the demise of Ian Curtis, Joy Division metamorphosed into New Order, while the Charlatans have soldiered on since losing keyboard player Rob Collins in a car crash. It all goes to show that there is rock 'n' roll life after death. And after splitting up.

Hallucinations to make a song and dance about

The strange sounds of Koop make music for dreaming to. By Phil Johnson

A FLUTE refrain borrowed from Debussy's *Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune* swoops over a landscape of digital peaks and troughs provided by the cheery rhythms of an early-model drum-machine, to be met by the loping three-note measure of a familiar jazz bass-line. Then a dreamy female vocal (by Cecilia Stalin - no relation) enters with the line "I walk in woods in such a hidden place", followed by pizzicato string samples and the bleeps of an old-school synth. At length the vocal hook returns, along with the Debussy sample, a bit of scat singing, the recitation of some avant-garde Swedish poetry, an accordion solo and a rat-tat counter-rhythm of martial drum-beats.

This is the sound of "Glommd", by the Swedish duo Koop, the single from their album *Sons of Koop*, and it is both strange and very, very good. There are enough musical and cultural references on board to sink the *Titanic*, but the tune is still catchy enough for you to find yourself singing along in an imprecise version of what you think are the correct words. The accompanying video, directed by the Swedish singer-songwriter Stina Nordenstam, is equally strange, setting the walk in the woods in a hallucinatory forest where something nasty lurks amid the pines.

Sons of Koop was released last year by the Swedish independent label Diesel, but has since been picked up by megacorp Universal for its classy few lower-case imprint, Columbe d'or, which is no doubt hoping that Koop will turn out to be a Northern European version of France's Air. But when I meet Koop's two partners, Magnus Zingmark and Oscar Simonsson, in a restaurant in Stockholm, they seem endearingly immune to the new buzz about the recordings they made with modest means two years ago. Both are in their



Magnus Zingmark and Oscar Simonsson, of Koop

early twenties, and rather forbiddingly serious; they are less concerned with commercial success than with, well, beauty. "I think our album or kind of music describes some kind of beauty," Oscar says thoughtfully. "The beauty and the balance of the parts, like in Plato."

"We're not interested in a pop aesthetic or in being catchy, like Air," says Magnus. Between bites of herring, Oscar makes a big statement: "We want to make music that grows"

he says. "The hi-hats are as important as the lyrics," says Magnus, with an air of finality. They met in 1992 as philosophy students at university in Uppsala, teaming up after a gig where Oscar was playing with his band and Magnus was the DJ. "We listened to old electronic music - John Cage and stuff like that - and began to combine electronics with pop songs," says Magnus, who is the sharper and spikier of the two. The music on the album came out of a trip to Oscar's family's summer house, where they listened to records and produced the sampled loops that would

later form the basis of the tracks. "When you're there on the island you have peace," Oscar says. "You can listen to a piece 45 minutes long because nothing disturbs you."

Markus half-seriously describes the music that resulted from their retreat as "twisted dance music". "It's soft, slow dance music, like a foxtrot," Oscar says.

"Dance music albums are always boring to listen at home, but we wanted to make a real album, not a collection of 12 inches. Modern dance music is always 120bpm or more but it's quite interesting to do a track at 110bpm, like a slow house tune, laid-back, with a lot of space and time in the music."

The slowness of Koop's music is thus less a Nordic variant of trip-hop - a term which, as dedicated purists, they insist really applies only to the instrumental hip-hop of the "Mo'Nax" label - than a musical evocation of the sparseness of the Swedish landscape.

"On the island everything goes very slowly," says Oscar. "You lose track of time and

you're really moving around in slow motion." "Glommd", which means "gloom" or "melancholy" - a powerful emotion in Sweden - originates from when they were mixing records on the decks in Magnus's living-room and came up with the experimental pairing of Debussy on one turntable, and the jazz bass-line on the other. They then sat down and discussed the significance of the juxtaposition, before gradually working out the lyric and then taking samples from readings by the elderly Swedish poet Rut Hillarp.

They are happy with Stina Nordenstam's video for "Glommd". "Our A&R director suggested she should do it, so we sent her the album and she liked it," Oscar says. "She had an idea about Swedish myths and this creature that lives in the forest, who attracts people and then kills them. We could relate to that."

I think it's a joke, but with Swedes it's difficult to tell.

Sons of Koop is out now on Columbe d'or

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Boy, could they play guitar

Steve Harvey's version of Ziggy Stardust's demise went beyond tribute. It was art (the programme said). By Nick Coleman



Steve Harvey (left) announces his retirement – or rather David Bowie's – at the ICA last week, while (right) the real thing does the real thing back in 1973 David Cowland, Debbie Ross (Redferns)

Of all the shows on this tour, this particular show will remain with us the longest. Not only is it the last show of the tour, it's the last show we'll ever do. And with his thunderous words still ringing in our ears, Steve Harvey performed "Rock'n'Roll Suicide" for the very last time and quit the stage of the ICA. The audience screamed and looked at their watches.

It was 10.53pm. Remarkably, these were exactly same words spoken by David Bowie to a rather younger audience at Hammersmith Odeon 25 years ago to the very night, on the occasion of Ziggy Stardust's original conceptual disposal (or death).

The significant difference between the two events, as far as I could see last Friday in The Mail, was that on the first occasion the artist didn't really mean it.

Steve Harvey certainly appeared to. His half-smile was a half-rictus; his sincerity was palpable.

Never, ever again would he get on

stage on the 25th anniversary of the last-ever concert by "Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars" to reenact that signal performance with his group in absolute detail, word for word, note for note, mime for mime, gusset for gusset. As rock'n'roll suicides go, it was really quite a moving one. No, really.

"Ah-ha," you may say, "you're only saying that because you've been drawn hook, line and bra-strap into the web of counterfeit, complicity and late-nite TV irony on which all tribute bands depend." But you would be wrong.

I was moved because this wasn't a tribute band, it was art. It must have been art because it said it was on the programme.

"A Rock'n'Roll Suicide – a live art event by Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard", the programme announced, above the logo of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, sponsored by Kodak Advantix, Red or Dead, the Gigi Club and Toni & Guy. Yet Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard were not even in the group. They conceived the concept, as

artists do, and then let others fill out its skin. Hatchet-faced Steve Harvey and his counterfeited "Spiders" were the artists' gesture, enacting on their behalf the hoary old conceit

Above all, I was moved by his conviction that if we all work together then, by jingo, something really may happen

that in a world in which authenticity is a construct, then only in heightened inauthenticity will we find truth – the simulacrum is reality, or something to that effect.

Speaking indulgently for myself, I was moved. Not touched according to rock'n'roll receipt, by the "Spiders" ability to rock; nor, ob-

viously, withered by the spark of novelty that has always connected pop to showbiz; nor, even, was I shaken by nostalgic feeling – I have no desire to return to 1973, when I was spotty but not yet ready to recognise the hermaphrodite within. No, I was moved by Steve Harvey's keenness, his accuracy, his attention to detail, the bloody-mindedness of his will to make believe that reality is just another skin.

Above all, I was moved by his conviction that if we all work together then, by jingo, something really may happen, even if it is only the collective recognition that we all live in a Baudrillardian wendy house. It's always moving when people reveal their vulnerabilities.

So what did we get for the price of our complicity at the ICA last Friday? We got the spectacle of several original Bowie people in the audience, who had thwarted incipient baldness by artfully teasing their residual side-stocks of hair into oily horns. We got fake Ziggy Stardust costumes re-made by the same

person who designed and made the originals. We got Trevor Bolander's original sideburns, which must have been lowered into place on the bass player's head with a crane. We got Steve Harvey's bum, which is as proportionately flat, wide and unappetising as his thighs are gorgeously lithe, just like Ziggy's. We also got some terrific Ronsomesque guitar playing by "Mick Ronson", who was otherwise completely wrong (if you can imagine Angus Deayton in a blond fright-wig pretending to be a gardener from Hull pretending to enjoy wearing Spanx trousers, then you will see how "Mick Ronson" poses conceptual problems to the artist). I got unfathomable pleasure from finding "Woody Woodmansey" sexually attractive, though the gradual realisation that "Woody" was, in fact, a girl was gravely disappointing – I really thought I was on for a new sensation for a while.

But perhaps the thing that was most in evidence in the blackness of the ICA's arts womb was an atmosphere of collective knowingness, even self-congratulation, at the

bottomless transparency of the event, a feeling that beyond one window to meaning lay another, and beyond that another, and beyond the next yet another, and so on for ever, or at least until you got fed up with looking, the effect being that no one who took the trouble to look need feel at any stage that wool was being pulled over their eyes. In short, "A Rock'n'Roll Suicide" made smartypants out of the lot of us, which, as any dimwit knows, is one of the main uses of art.

There was, however, a disquieting postscript to the event. Firm in my belief that what had been witnessed was a singular manifestation of art's capacity to construct reality in unrepeatable doses, I rang the ICA just to make that Steve Harvey had indeed killed off "Ziggy", and was not about to embark on a nationwide tour featuring Ziggy's death on a one-stop-shop basis, with major sponsorship from Toni & Guy. The ICA was tight-lipped. It would only confirm that "we have a suspicion that this may have been a fake suicide".

Festivals on the way out

The great outdoors? Not any more, says Jonathan King

I WENT down to Glastonbury this year. It was a serious mistake. I skipped last year, although I have attended virtually every one since it started. I love outdoor festivals.

The concept was born out of the thought that there are performers who want to play music to people, and people who want to hear great music played to them. Those heady days are gone – distant 'Sixties' memories.

Forget the mud and the rain of Glastonbury. It was the awful, high steel fences that horrified me, giving everyone the feeling that only people who paid were welcome. Most of the musicians were second division, too, spawned from the era of the quick hit and instant profit that has killed the gradual development of performance skills and abilities.

Nobody bothers to communicate any more. Dozens of one-hit wonders did dull and sullen sets beneath the leaden skies while miserable punters wished they had stayed at home. Corner shops were brilliant with "Brimful of Asha", but that was it.

Clearly these days the organisers want the fans' money.

How, then, could Glastonbury be changed for the better? By



going back to the roots and building on creative and musical motives – and, at the same time, using modern technology to add comfort and care.

How about reverting to the concept of free gigs? Advertisers and sponsors long to reach hundreds of thousands, so why not let the products pay to reach the public? Outdoors or indoors? Well, the weather is unpredictable, but the joy of sunshine is great. Is it impossible to construct some kind of structures that can be put up or taken down within minutes, depending on the weather?

Moreover, is it not possible to build walkways and driveways that are raised and covered if necessary, facilitating access between areas? One of the few good developments has been the multiple stage and tent arrangement, but the problem of getting from one to another should be solved.

Shops and food outlets must surely be better planned?

And toilets; someone has to come up with clean, practical, hygienic concepts – like those awful public, self-cleaning units.

So who performs? Only deserving and exciting fresh artists, selected because they concentrate on entertaining. They must play for free, too – for the huge advantage of reaching hundreds of thousands of potential record-buyers.

Don't write off some very big names, however. The finest will be only too happy to prove they can do it better than anyone else.

Scrap Glastonbury. Bury the old festivals and start a new one. Then today's music lovers will enjoy those extraordinary experiences as much as my generation.



THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 Because We Want To	Billie
2 Ghetto Supastar	Pras Michael
3 C'est La Vie	B*Witched
4 Three Lions '98	Baddiel/Skinner
5 Vindaloo	Fat Les
6 Save Tonight	Eahle-Eye Cherry
7 Legacy Ep	Mansun
8 Looking For Love	Karen Ramirez
9 The Boy Is Mine	Brandy/Monica
10 Horny	Mousse T

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
1 Talk On Corners	The Corrs
2 Postcards From Heaven	Lighthouse Family
3 Five	Five
4 Live Thru A Lense	Robbie Williams
5 Blue	Simply Red
6 The Good Will Out	Embrace
7 International Velvet	Catatonia
8 Urban Hymns	The Verve
9 Left Of The Middle	Natalie Imbruglia
10 Where We Belong	Boyzone

TOP 10 FIVE YEARS AGO

TITLE	ARTIST
1 Dreams	Gabrielle
2 What Is Love	Haddaway
3 Falling In Love With You	UB40
4 Tease Me	Chaka Demus
5 Have I Told You Lately	Rod Stewart
6 All That She Wants	Ace Of Base
7 I Will Survive	Gloria Gaynor
8 Two Princes	The Spin Doctors
9 In All The Right Places	Lisa Stansfield
10 One Night In Heaven	M-People

TOP 10 TEN YEARS AGO

TITLE	ARTIST
1 I Owe You Nothing	Bros
2 The Twist	Fat Boys
3 Boys	Sabrina
4 Tribute	The Pasadenas
5 In The Air	Phil Collins
6 Doctorin' The Tardis	The Timelords
7 Breakfast In Bed	UB40
8 Wild World	Maxi Priest
9 Voyage Voyage	Desireless
10 Push It/Tramp	Salt 'N' Pepper

Recommended releases.



Bedlam Ago Go
"Estate Style Entertainment".
The eagerly-awaited debut album from Bedlam Ago Go, "Estate Style Entertainment" doesn't pull any punches, bracing gritty realities and creating a unique sound, where the influences of hip-hop, punk, and dub combine to devastating effect.



Baaba Maal
"Nomad Soul".
The long-awaited new album from Senegal's king of Atrapop, "Nomad Soul" brings together many varied influences, from Celtic, Cuban and rap through to funk and reggae, while still maintaining an African feel. Howie B and Brian Eno chip in on the production front.

We know him only too well

He may have lost the bottle-blond hairdo and harem pants, but has Howard Jones, that archetypal Eighties icon, thrown off his mental chains? At London's Jazz Café, the evidence suggested not. By Glyn Brown

LET'S IMAGINE for a moment that Howard asked my advice - and, you know, I wish he would. He might say, I want to make it big again, big as I made it in the Eighties, when everyone was singing along to "What is Love?" and "Like to Get to Know You Well", when my albums *Human's Lib* and *Dream into Action* got pretty high in the charts. After all, he might say, everyone else is doing it - I am about to tour with Culture Club and the Human League. And didn't ABC have a revival last year? Well, sure, I might reply; but ABC were brilliant the first time around and made a good fist of their comeback. You, on the other hand, were merely interesting.

Jones entranced first High Wycombe and then the world with his cutting-edge technology. He was a one-man band with a clever synth and pre-recorded tapes, and he moved like a kind of pre-Cambrian Beethoven from Happy Mondays.

Apparently, the man has never stopped making music, investing his earnings in a studio and putting out recordings that have left no mark that I am aware of, though there is a new album, *People*, due soon, and a current single, "Tomorrow is Now", which went straight to the cutting edge of the Radio 2 playlist. Ironically, it is about letting go of the past.

Jones has let go of some of his past. Back then, he sported a bottle-blond hairdo, though he had something of a bottle-blond root problem, a fastidiously constructed hairdo that only a flock of seagulls ever bettered. Now he is 43, the hair that frames the curiously dish-shaped face is shorn and the threads are unassuming. The songs he plays with his three-strong band are a



Keeping up with Jones: funky white soul, cod reggae, frantic rock-outs, pretty ballads and all the old favourites

Tony Buckingham

strange mix of genres, from funky white soul to cod reggae, with the occasional Santana-esque guitar break.

The lyrics are thoughtful, as you would expect from a man who made no secret of his avant-garde vegetarianism. There are lines about angels, love and getting married, or

about finding yourself and embracing the world.

Jones was always a dab hand on the old Joanna, though these days it's a groovy electric organ, and let no one say the rock-outs - such as opener "You Know I Love You" - aren't frantic and the acoustic ballads aren't pretty; but is

that really sufficient? Even the fact that the new single is co-written by the Go-Gos' talented Jane Weidlin can't help it, partly because Jones's voice is still so thin. He lays on all the old favourites, and the additional depth from drums and two shaggy-haired boys on guitar to whom this is all rela-

tively new - one grins and bounces up and down as engagingly as Tigger - gives them a freshness and extra lease of life. Of course, the fans know all the words, roaring along to "What is Love?" and chorusing about throwing off their mental chains. It makes me shamed but a

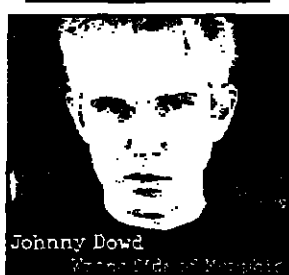
little cynical. If he asked my advice - and he's not going to - I would tell him: Howard, baby, you're a philanthropist. Come on, think about the rest of us. Don't you know when enough is enough?

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

CD CHOICE



JOHNNY DOWD
WRONG SIDE OF MEMPHIS
(JUNIOR MPTD 133)

JOHNNY DOWD is an American original, a late-blooming singer-songwriter with an arrestingly individual American Gothic style. A 50-year-old moving man from Ithaca, New York, he has just released his debut album, a downbeat dossier of casual violence, Christianity and congenital stupidity.

Dowd's songs have ominously blunt titles such as "Wages of Sin", "Average Guy" and - not to put too fine a point on it - "Murder", and they are populated by characters such as the Death Row inmate of "Ft Worth, Texas", still hearing voices despite having killed his girlfriend and botched his own suicide. It is oddly compelling, this portfolio of

postcards from the last trailer-park before hell: imagine a more careworn, blue-collar Nick Cave, with the melodrama replaced by a self-effacing fatalism that is really rather spooky.

The album starts as it means to go on, with Dowd mumbling "There's been a murder here today/See the bloodstains on the wall/There's a body in the bed room/And another one in the hall", over a skeletal blues riff. It is a resolutely lo-fi affair, with Dowd over-dubbing all the instruments: parts of *Wrong Side Of Memphis* sound as though they were recorded through the plasterboard wall of a motel room, which adds enormously to the air of bogus authenticity.

It is as if he is deliberately aiming for the blend of menace and mystery in those weird old songs on compilations such as *Harry Smith's celebrated Anthology of American Folk Music*.

The results are distant but immediate, rendered in a rudimentary white-trash palette of acoustic guitar, cheap organ, drum machine and some piercing, discordant keyboard tones straight out of *The Residents'* equally nightmarish musical world.

The record is a self-conscious exercise, with songs that creep up on themselves: "Idle Conversation", particularly, is a post-modern delight, with Dowd over-dubbing a fake discussion about an

apocryphal blues singer, Johnny Guitar, on his scratchy, semi-audible representation of the said bluesman's old recordings - all by way of an introduction to the following track, "Wages of Sin". The jewel in the crown, though, is "Thanksgiving Day", in which Dowd croaks "You don't have to be a rock star to have some fun" above a plunking, wheezing backdrop of banjo and harmonium that sounds about as far from fun as is humanly possible.

That, perhaps, is the point, given the way the song's message - "Be content with your life, it may not get any better" - pivots so gracefully on the cusp of pessimism and passivity.



RIALTO
RIALTO
(CHINA WOLCD 1096)

FEW HAVE been more poorly served by the ripples of panic coursing through the pop industry than the unfortunate Rialto,

dropped by their former label EastWest on the back of three consecutive Top 40 singles. Relocated at a new label, it is possible to discern both sides of the argument in Rialto's debut album, which has the big, catchy choruses and dramatic ironies demanded of today's Britpop bands, but which lacks the required individual signature, leaning a little too heavily on the influence of Pulp in particular - they share an affection for the epic sweep of Sixties orchestral pop - and rather embarrassingly, the sleeve even features a vacantly ravished woman, just like *This Is Hardcore*.

Judging by the stalker's love song "When We're Together", voyeurism is another trait Rialto frontman Louis Eliot shares with Jarvis - though you're always aware of the impersonal distance in Eliot's songs, which rarely sound as if forged from personal emotional involvement.

Nothing wrong with that, but there is a heavy-handed affectation about some lyrics here that grates badly, as when "number" is rhymed with "numb ya" in the drug song "Lucky Number"; the contrivance tends to dwarf the song's less obvious merits.



EAGLE-EYE CHERRY
CHERRY
DESIRELESS
(POLYDOR 537226-2)

SON OF Don and sister of Neneh, Eagle-Eye Cherry displays an engaging, laid-back, funky personality on this debut

offering, which owes as much to folk-rockers like Bob Dylan and Neil Young as it does to the jazz and soul influences one expects from his lineage. Time and again throughout *Desireless*, I was reminded of a less wrecked, more mainstream version of Ben Harper, particularly in the 12-string guitar and gentle gospel-soul of "Indecision".

Cherry's songs also deal with similar quandaries as Harper's, with issues of sin and redemption, shared moments and lost opportunities. But if Harper has the bigger soul, Cherry is the better singer, layering mellifluous harmonies through obvious pop hits like "Falling In Love Again" and "When Mermaids Cry". The production, by Cherry and his Swedish colleagues Adam Kviman and Kent Gillstrom, is faultless, a pleasing filigree of acoustic guitars deftly stitched together with hand percussion and subtle embellishment. If anything, it's too faultless at times, bringing to mind the empty euphoria of *The Lighthouse Family*, but elsewhere, the blend of soul and folk-rock resonates with the quiet power of Curtis Mayfield.



NEW POWER GENERATION
NEWPOWER SOUL
(NPG/GRCA 74321 60598-2)

GIVEN THE inordinate length of recent releases by The Artist Formerly Regarded As Interesting

(such as the *Emancipation* triple-album, *Newpower Soul* at least has the dubious benefit of brevity. But it is still largely comprised of the kind of hollow funk jams he has been cranking out by the yard for the best part of two decades now. Indeed, when, during "Push It Up", his assembled NPG minions shout out "This is the jam of the year!", one's immediate response is that the year in question must be 1983.

As usual, the album consists of roughly equal portions of forgettable funk workouts like "Mad Sex" and slow ballads like the Stylistics-styled "Until I've In My Arms Again", with the best tracks left until late on, when slide guitar and oddly-pitched synth lines bring a welcome diversity to the sound of "Come On", and Clare Fischer's string arrangement spins its web of austere mystery around "The One".

But even those two tracks fail to move one emotionally as they should. TAPKAP's use of shorthand and symbols - an eye for "I", and "U" for "you" - hints at the ersatz emotions he trades in: he seems incapable of dealing with any but the most impersonal of pronouns.



FATBOY SLIM
ON THE FLOOR
AT THE BOUTIQUE
(SIRIUS BRASSIC 9CD)

NOT SO much a Fatboy Slim album proper as a DJ mix suite, *On The Floor At The Boutique*, is

intended to give the unenlightened the old, the lazy, the infirm, and those who live too far north to attend) some idea of the delights of Brighton's Big Beat Boutique, which since April 1996 has been the epicentre of the feverish dance scene bearing its name, and which has borne Fatboy to mainstream fame.

Unlike most such dance scenes, Big Beat - at least as practised by Norman "Fatboy" Cook - is gloriously eclectic, blending together hip-hop breakbeats, funk bass-lines, turntable scratches, ska skaunks and acid house squelches into one sticky, sweaty flow. The only prerequisite, it seems, is the size of the beats, which are indeed huge. There are no temporal restrictions either: Slim slides from a cheery Sixties version of "Apache" (by Michael Viner's Incredible Bongo Band), through the sinuous Funkadelic family groove "Discothdown" to more modern cuts like the huge thump and squeal of Deeds Plus Thoughts "The World's Made Up Of This & That" - great blocks of noise rammed up against each other in the most propulsive way possible. A formidable cacophony, and fun with it.

LYRIC SHEETS

Billie Piper, a 15-year-old from Swindon has gone straight to No 1 in the pop charts. Other famous Swindonians include Gilbert O'Sullivan, Justin Hayward, XTC, Mark Lamarr, Dr Desmond Morris, Diana Dora, Melinda Messenger and Rick Davies from Supertramp.

Ode To Swindon
From Paddington to Swindon
The gateway to the west
And home of Desmond Morris
It takes an hour at best

Where Brunel's railway navvies
Saw fit to set up camp
And Gilbert formed a rock band
With Rick from Supertramp

The miniature museum
Up on the Old Bath Road
Displays a long-dead badger
Some kindly soul bestowed

In modest terraced houses
Guitarists learn their licks
The embryonic rock gods
Of Swindon SNE

And those who gain the knowledge
Meet those who never will
While slouching down to college
By way of Prospect Hill

It's where you mail things back to
When book clubs get it wrong
Where Justin Hayward hailed from
And XTC belong

The home of Anchor Butter
And sundry media tarts
It's Swindon, Jewel of Wiltshire
The cauldron of the arts

MARTIN NEWELL



SLEEVE NOTES

ONE ICON, it seems, is attempting to feed on another. *The New York Daily News* has reported that scenes in Madonna's video for "Drowned World" Substitute For Love", bear a disturbing resemblance to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The video opens with Madonna watching Diana's funeral and then features the Material Girl being chased by paparazzi, with a mock-up of Dodi Fayed and Diana leaving the Ritz. It is not about Diana, says Madonna's publicist, but a statement about life as Madonna. Cynics recall that the link between eroticism and religion in the video for her 1989 single, "Like a Prayer", caused outrage at the Vatican, yet the resulting publicity helped the album of the same name to become a best-seller.



he asked. The Saints have been offered the chance to appear in *Baywatch* and *Beverly Hills 90210* and write some music for *South Park*. They have yet to make a decision.

THE ENGLAND football team's heroic defeat by Argentina has had our pop stars as miserable as the rest of the nation. Ian Broudie has announced that he will never play "Three Lions" again. Pub owners will breathe a sigh of relief, as will Shaun Ryder. The Black Grape frontman has got a column in the *Sport* newspaper, called "It's Great When You're Talking Straight - the Column With Steel Bollocks". His debut gave Ryder the opportunity to call "Three Lions" "a load of shite".

JENNIFER RODGER

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Posthumous mass appeal

A 12th-century nun is reaching down the ages after centuries of neglect to sell popstar quantities of her ethereal yet sensual music. By Michael Quinn

She may not be Madonna or even Ginger Spice, but 900 years after her birth, the music of a 12th-century abbess, the long-ignored Hildegard von Bingen, is regularly to be found in the higher reaches of the music charts. As the ever-increasing number of recordings of her work continue to sell in pop-music quantities and her haunting and uncategorisable compositions gain a greater profile on the concert platform, the most famous singing nun before Julie Andrews is enjoying a sensational comeback.

Indeed, the fascination for the multi-faceted mystic, visionary herbalist, hagiographer, politician, proto-feminist and composer everyone had all but forgotten until the middle of the last decade, has never been greater.

Hildegard was fêted in life by princes, popes and politicians, and in death her radiant religious music reaches across the centuries and through the classes to give her - if you will excuse the pun - mass appeal. It is not just in the starched-collar world of classical music that her sublimely ethereal music is weaving its spell. Last summer she

or after - and he readily acknowledges her as a great composer. "She has a very distinctive musical voice with all the originality you would expect of an auto-didact, and there is work of real stature. Some of the songs are among the largest the Western world has ever known."

"It would be pretty hard not to notice the opus," agrees Barbara Thornton, whose concentrated and continuing investigations of the Hildegard repertoire with her own ensemble, *Sequentia*, have placed her in a position of pre-eminence amongst contemporary interpreters of the so-called "Syll of the Rhine".

"As a composer pure and simple she's just about one of the best. There are amazing dimensions to Hildegard, some hard for us to accept, and it would take a lifetime to set out the whole issue of the what, why and how of her music and its intentions." That Hildegard should be cloaked in controversy after centuries of neglect is not, in itself, a surprise. Even so, unpicking, unravelling and reassembling her unique musical signature seems a straightforward proposition until you have to make the decision from which perspective - secular, sacred or even sexual - to begin.

Thornton's description of the music as "Hildegard's path into other people" provides its own guiding rationale. "Christian themes may dominate because a lot of it has to do with her own spiritual path, but not in such a way that a modern listener can't accept it."

"It's not so obsessed with Christ and Mary. It's her own visionary plane which she emphasises."

And there's the rub, for Hildegard's heightened sense of the spiritual and the holy is nothing if not self-specific. Underpinning the surface latticework of prayer is a remarkable re-imagining of the world and is described with a musical vocabulary in which the symbolic, the prophetic and the apocalyptic are woven together with a searing and often un-church-like sensuality.

Add to that the literary hoops and hurdles of her own hyper-poetic self-penned texts and the idiosyncratic nun suddenly does not seem so much pre-Renaissance as post-modern. For Susan Hellauer of the American a cappella ensemble *Anonymous 4* - who recently recorded Hildegard's chants for the Feast of St Ursula - picking a route through such swirling cross-currents of ideas and influences provides its own peculiar problems.

"Who knows where authenticity lies in Hildegard? Her music is like a set of constantly recurring formulae tied to the text like combinations waiting to be unlocked. There is boldness stamped everywhere: in her choice of intervallic material, in ignoring the bounds of contemporary modal theory, in her imagery."

And yet, Hellauer adds, the music still retains the power to connect potently and personally 900 years after it was written.

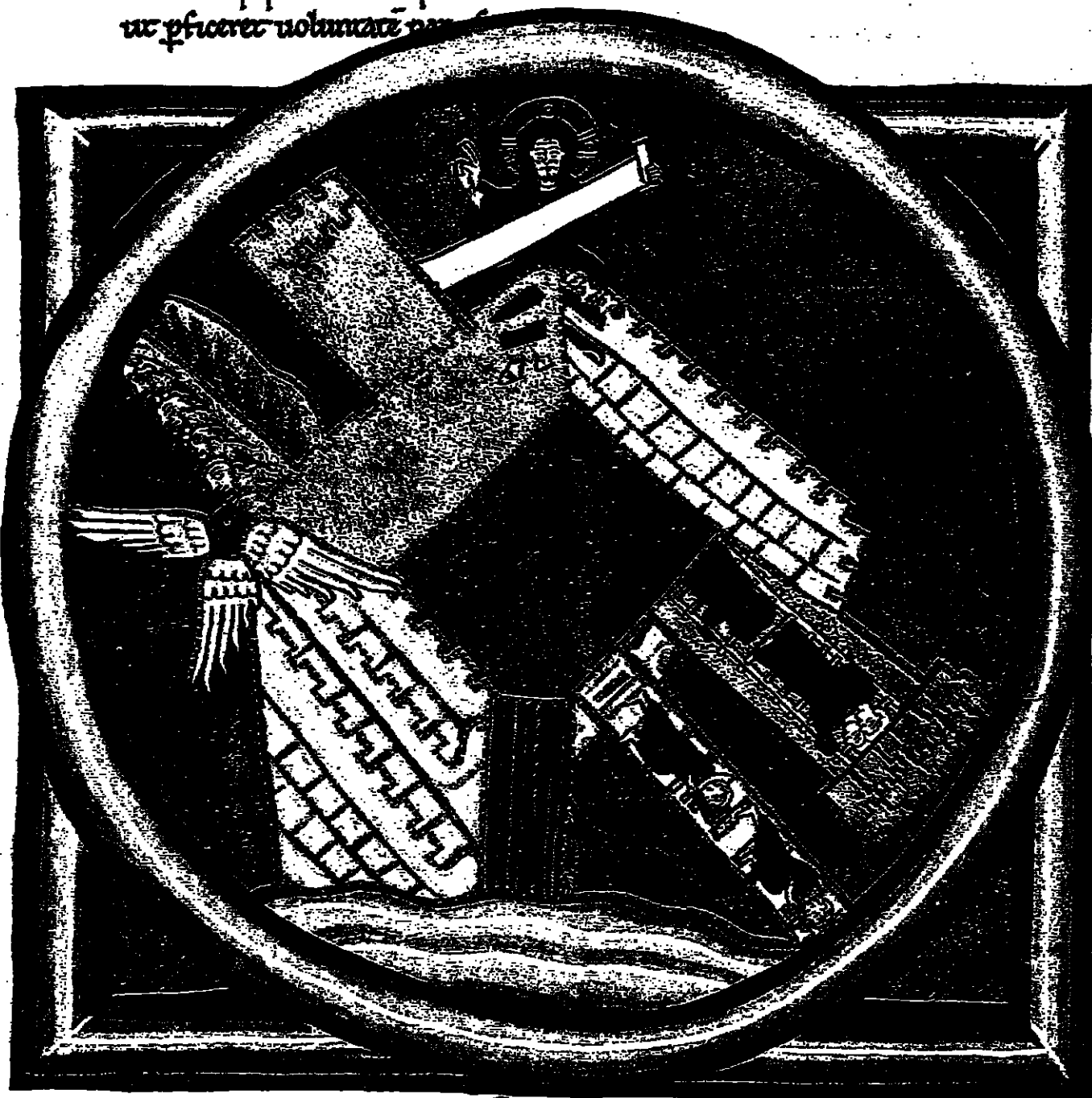
"The emphasis on the feminine divine and the erotic-romantic view of virgin martyrs doesn't require a lot of explanation to us today - even when the imagery is cuckoo."

Authenticity, in Barbara Thornton's mind at least, lies largely in conceptual approaches outside of the written-down notes, in what she describes as "a sense of shared community" within and around the music. "The challenge," she says, "is the endless invitation to subtlety the music offers. In Hildegard the technical and the emotional go together and they have to, in space and time, be allowed to move abreast."

For Christopher Page, however, it is the sheer, often overwhelming intensity of Hildegard's music - a quality that perhaps draws the wider

xxiii. Q. d' homo equitator deinde g'iant.
fide catholica equat deuocone
xxiiii. Q. d' fidelis homo atendar scolar.
de uirtute i uirtutem.
xxv. Q. d' filius di nullus e unumundum
lectm temp pordinatu apatre.
ut pficeret uoluntate p...

d' sapia mali uel fine ei i opame
canta aut uncu aut fine supne
uulticie nullu q. distributione
uoluntate di nulli hōump
seruari potest.



The symbolic, the prophetic and the apocalyptic are woven together with a searing and often unchurch-like sensuality

contemporary audience to it in the first instance - that gives some cause for concern, or at least for a healthy dose of scepticism. "I sometimes wonder whether the impulse to create a particular piece was ever really as strong as Hildegard would like us to think. Her mode is one of constant rapture and in her poetry she speaks as the voice from glory all the time, but occasionally there is a slightly automatic quality to her ecstasy and the poetry seems designed not to contain the feeling she already has but to lift her up to a plane of feeling where she would like to be."

Perhaps, allows Susan Hellauer: but there is no denying or resisting, she insists, the emotional and spiritual gravity of the music. "It has an elemental, inchoate sound; it's primitive, like the kind of driven force you find in *The Rite of Spring*. Her trademark sound of large, upward-leaping intervals with lots of octaves and fifths around which the ornamental



Scivias (Know the ways of the Lord), Hildegard von Bingen's first visionary work, top, and above, *Sequentia*

music is built is one of physical, Pythagorean entities, vibrational frequencies that mean something to the listener even if they know nothing about music."

"What people are responding to when they listen to Hildegard," Christopher Page offers in summation, "is the sound. When it's done properly it shouldn't be like a performance, it ought to be a kind of prayer. It's that sense that really ex-

presses what the music is about, namely her own powerful will. She puts her head above the current. She is unusual. She has a special vision and she pursues it. She is an assertive soul."

Perhaps, then, in a doubt-ridden world the idiosyncratic notions of a long-dead 12th-century nun, for all their febrile and vibrant fancies, may just be the release or the rationale some are searching for to

make sense of a senseless age. Especially when they sound as beautiful as Hildegard von Bingen's.

Anonymous 4: 11,000 Virgins: Chants for the Feast of St Ursula - Harmonia Mundi, HMU 907200; Gothic Voices: A Feather on the Breath of God - Hyperion, CDA 68039; Sequentia: Canticles of Ecstasy - Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, DHM 05472 77320 2

Ten and a half days later...

Just who will listen to a 200-CD piano box set? They're a must, says Rob Cowan

THE TRADE name Steinway & Sons is as familiar at piano recitals as Marlboro is at the race track, so it was fitting that Philips should launch their epic, 350-hour *Great Pianists of the Twentieth Century* at Steinway's Hamburg piano manufacturing plant. Rows of cut timber and complex machinery framed an impromptu press hall where Philips' President Costa Pilavachi gave us the low-down on Steinway's sponsorship and the broader scope of the project: 74 great



Rachmaninov, one of the greats

pianists on 200 CDs to be released over the next 14 months, starting with 22 CD volumes due out in August.

The initiative was masterminded by Philips' reissues guru Tom Deacon.

"We initially conceived the idea in terms of a 25-CD, all Philips set for the coming millennium", said Deacon, "but then I thought to myself, why not use other Polygram (ie, Deutsche Grammophon and Decca) material as well? I could even take it a step further: wouldn't it be great if we could extend the project to include such legendary names as Sergei Rachmaninov, Alfred Cortot and Edwin Fischer - and Vladimir Horowitz? That would be nice."

"So I made overtures to all the major record companies."

Co-operation from his opposite numbers in rival companies was mostly forthcoming, and Deacon's vision of "a major edition reflecting the great pianists of our century" matured from a dream into reality.

But not before hours of tortuous decision making. For six full months Deacon locked himself away in the comfort of his own collection, auditioning the rare, the precious and the arcane.

What pressure from so much surplus product? Or are the perennial qualities of great records sufficiently seductive to sell themselves under any circumstances?

No doubt the seasoned specialist collectors will pot the lot, and discerning pianists will be next in line. But what about Joe Public? How will the Classic FM listening audience react to a single-channel recording topped with an aural toupee of 78rpm surface noise?

My guess is that, in many cases, hearing will mean being hooked. Listen to Josef Lhévinne dancing the Danube's waves or Rachmaninov chasing Rimsky's "Bumble Bee", and the message hits home loud and clear.

If Radio 3 lost touch with reality, who would notice?

WEDNESDAY WAS Dvorák's Seventh Symphony day, with Radio 3's schedule showing the piece twice in 12 hours. A one-off aberration no doubt, but it brought back that old mid-afternoon doubt: is anybody else out there listening? Since the second listing was at 2am, it set off a new thought: if the station's *Through the Night* slot lost touch with reality, would anybody notice?

An irresistible urge to sleep prevented a check-up in the small hours, but the afternoons have also become surprising. All week, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra was featured. Taking in a mini-fest of music by Sibelius, it

amounted to an extra *Composer of the Week* series. This was backed up by substantial offerings of Sibelius from *In Tune* and *Through the Night* - the latter managing not to duplicate a daytime broadcast plus a run of symphonies by Nielsen in *Masterworks*.

Whether or not the links were planned, they went un-fan-fared but worked well. Nielsen and Sibelius are tried and tested bedfellows. Samuel Barber and Sibelius, however, make a more revealing couple. Both have the reputation of running into cul-de-sacs at a time when progress was the critical requirement, of being minor

figures at the end of a dying tradition, soon to be swept away by the advance of "serialism".

Look at them now. Barber, the midnight "Composer of the Week", now sounds like the first of the new American Romantics, like a post-modern phenomenon who died before the concept even existed. The Sibelius case is even more complex. The ferocious concentration of pieces such as "Tapiola" and the Seventh Symphony has changed our view of the past, casting a new and inspiring light of hindsight on 19th-century composers who were feeling their way towards the same goal. Liszt, with his one-movement

ON THE AIR

ROBERT MAYCOCK

sonata and adventurous, evolving tone poems, was the main beneficiary.

Yet there is a feeling that Sibelius's time is still to come. More than half a century ago, Constant Lambert landed him with the "music of the future" tag, and his music is played more and more. Part of the fascination is that you can never quite fathom what makes it so exciting. Is there a weirder popular symphony than Sibelius's Second? A few composers reckon they

have got to grips with his process, but none has made a big impact.

The BBC SSO is a stronger band than BBC orchestras used to be when mid-afternoons really were dead but, like most of them, it does not deliver all the time - something for the next Radio 3 controller to think about. Nor does it have the strength of violins to handle Dvorák's quick-flying high lines. This made a frustrating experience of an otherwise exciting, high-energy performance conducted by Alexander Titov.

Tuesday's Berg and Beethoven were another matter, delivered with precision and flair from the

conductor Osmo Vanska and the solo violinist Jennifer Koh.

It is ironic that the robust playing of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony had one of Radio 3's most mealy-mouthed spoken introductions. First the script said how unexpectedly different it was from the Fifth because of its *Countryside* titles - this when the performance was about to place all the emphasis on internal musical drama, like Otto Klemperer with added adrenaline. Then it got obsessed with the number of movements, failing to see that Beethoven was just testing another way to link his scherzo to his finale.

These little things are less of an aberration than anything in the schedules, but they add up. Wednesday night's broadcast of "Gruppen" by Stockhausen forced the presenter to patronise any listeners using a "little transistor radio". What are transistor radios, anyway? Didn't they go out with Stockhausen? During "The Piano" afterwards we heard that Chopin "elevated dance forms to a new level". Just think about the social assumptions packed into that throwaway line. Do these people realise what they are saying? More interview material here for would-be controllers.



Robert Webb QC, the newly appointed general counsel at BA, will be sorely missed by independent airlines when he steps down from the Bar in September

A barrister among us

One of the most important men in aviation litigation was snapped up by British Airways – while fighting a case against them. By John-Paul Flintoff

NEXT TIME somebody tells you that barristers can't operate in the modern world, kindly recite the following list. Robert Alexander QC (now Lord Alexander of Weedon) took the top job at NatWest, Stephen Tumim QC became Chief Inspector of Prisons, John Swift QC landed the post of rail regulator, and Peter Leaver QC is chief executive of the Premier League.

And you can now add a new name to that list, because Robert Webb QC, 49, head of chambers at 5 Bell Yard, was recruited last week to be general counsel at British Airways (BA).

Reporting directly to chief executive Bob Ayling, Webb will run the nine-strong legal team, but also – more interestingly – will take responsibility for regulatory and government affairs. With this week's decision on the clearance of the alliance of BA and American Airlines in Europe by the European Competition Commissioner, Webb's appointment is timely. "I shall attend every board meeting," he says, strolling restlessly around his giant office in Lincoln's Inn, "in much the same way as the Attorney-General attends cabinet meetings."

He will not say how much British Airways is paying him, but jokes: "You don't have to organise a collection for me. I would not have done this entirely for charity." And yet money, he insists, was not the reason he took the job – which arose out of a chance meeting with Ayling at Waterloo Station a few weeks ago. After all, although not the most expensive barrister in the country, Webb is by no means cheap, either. This is not a barrister on the bread line.

He just wanted to try something different. "You can't know what it's like to have been doing something for 25 years until you've done it." Naturally, there is plenty that he still enjoys about his job: "To have a room full of people apparently hanging on your every word, laughing at your jokes – and finding in your favour – is the biggest kick in the world, and I shall miss it like hell." But other routines have become wearisome. "Before a case starts," Webb explains, "you go through the Garden of Gethsemane stage, when you pray that it will settle. It's surprising to me that more people don't leave the Bar. I don't suppose that

'With the Bar, there's an element of "Been there, done that, got the T-shirt"'

Charles Falconer (the Solicitor-General) misses carrying the ring binders home on the Tube.

Most barristers are conscious, says Webb, that "the issue of how and when to leave the Bar is a difficult one. A vigorous profession does not need a lot of old plukes moving about." Christopher Clarke QC, head of Brick Court Chambers, can sympathise: "There comes a time when you have been at the Bar for many years and there's an element of 'been there, done that, got the T-shirt'."

Traditionally, a senior barrister such as Webb may move up to become a judge. But Webb is uncommonly honest about this option. "I

make it clear that I have not been asked to go on the Bench. The world is full of barristers who say that they have been asked, but I have not. Being a judge requires patience, impartiality and enormous diligence – even when you are not interested in the subject. And I find that almost impossible."

Since taking silk 10 years ago, Webb has appeared in practically every significant case relating to aviation. He has won countless Civil Aviation Authority hearings – where airlines battle for the lucrative rights to fly from A to B – and his aviation-related insurance cases include the Gulf War, the Manchester crash and Lockerbie.

When Webb is not at the High Court, he will be appearing in the Court of Appeal or even the House of Lords. A popular story about him – which may even be true – underlines the strength of his practice in the higher courts. A few years ago, the story goes, Webb bumped into Lord Woolf at a cocktail party. Woolf had recently been appointed Master of the Rolls. "Now you are in the House of Lords," quipped Webb to Lord Woolf, "you'll be seeing more of me."

Webb is proud to act for whichever party instructs him first – according to the Bar's long-standing cab-rank principle – even if that occasionally means being instructed against his own former clients. For example, he acted against his old friends, the insurers, after the Zeebrugge disaster, and did the same again after the helicopter crash which killed Chelsea FC's Matthew Harding. Similarly, and more to the point, he has taken on British Airways several times. Most recently,

EasyJet instructed him in a case which is still going on (but scheduled to finish before Webb's new appointment starts in September); and for Virgin Airlines, he tackled BA in the "dirty tricks" litigation, and a massive battle over flights to Tokyo.

Says one solicitor, only half-joking: "He's done a number of cases for us, but he's also been on the other side – the shit!"

It is not for his written opinions that solicitors clamour to instruct Webb. It is for his performance in court. Partner Trevor Soames at Norton Rose explains: "If I had a really crappy case, I'd go to him."

Webb is especially good at read-

One view is that BA has taken out of play a barrister who causes them trouble

ing judges. "He knows when a bit of flippancy or humour is likely to work," says David McIntosh, senior partner at the law firm Davies Arnold Cooper. And a barrister who has appeared against Webb says this can be lethal. "A joke completely punctures the pompous and the over-precise. But it's beautifully done. He really leaves you grinding your teeth."

But Webb has always been careful to remain friendly with the people behind the barristers instructed against him – because those people may subsequently bring him work. "I had a big case against him," says one solicitor, "and he upset my barrister, got right under his skin with

a few humorous remarks – but he was winking at me as he did it."

Astonishing though it may seem – in aviation, an industry beset with animosity – Webb managed to remain friends with everybody. But by joining BA, he loses his claim to impartiality. "He will not be available as a source of advice for my clients," says Colin Howes of Harbottle & Lewis, the solicitor for airlines such as Virgin, "which is a big negative for independent airlines."

There are two ways of looking at Webb's appointment. One is this: that BA has craftily taken out of play a barrister who can – and does – cause the company trouble. The solicitor who instructed Webb on the EasyJet case, Hugh O'Donovan of Wilde Sapte, elaborates: "It is unfortunate to have one's QC approached – by the other side – in the middle of a case in which he is doing well." And EasyJet's chairman, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, says that BA's recruitment of Webb shows: "how ruthless Bob Ayling is."

But there is also another, more charitable view. By hiring a man well liked among the independents, BA has effectively flagged its intentions to make peace. And that is the way Webb sees it. "I do aim to build bridges," he says. "I have attended the funerals of a lot of independent airlines. I know how difficult it can be for them."

But that is enough gloom and doom. Webb, barely able to sit still, is thrilled at the prospect of his new job, for which he provides an appropriately aerial analogy. "I will be interested to see if I'm any good," he beams. "I view this a bit like a bungee jump, and just hope I will bounce up."

Who benefits from legal aid? The lawyers

LEGAL AID was introduced as part of the massive expansion in state-funded services following the last war. As with the NHS, its aim was laudable – to provide access to justice for all. The current Labour Government proposes to replace it with "no win, no fee" funding for damages claims. Lawyers and clients can enter into a conditional fee agreement allowing the lawyer to charge up to double his usual fee if the claim succeeds, but waive his fee if the claim fails; this effectively privatises access to justice.

The failings of civil legal aid are obvious to most people apart from lawyers with vested interests; it is hugely expensive, its fast-rising cost exceeding inflation, yet ever fewer people benefit from it – most taxpayers are ineligible. It is inherently unfair because innocent defendants are unable to recover their legal costs against assisted persons.

The Lord Chief Justice described this as "an obvious incentive to pay something, however unmeritorious the claim". Parliament and the Bar Council have called this situation "legal aid blackmail". The system is also inherently biased, since the decision whether or not to grant legal aid is based on the advice of the applicant's lawyer, who has a direct financial interest in advancing the claim. The Legal Aid Board admits that it is "not possible to exercise detailed control over all publicly funded litigation" and that there is no "effective sanction for shoddy work".

Medical negligence litigation exposes the worst of civil legal aid. It has been attacked by the Lord Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson. Ironically, the Government proposes to retain legal aid for medical negligence. According to official figures, the success rate of medical claims is 17 per cent overall; of 53 per cent of claims that go beyond initial investigation, the success rate is 41 per cent (it is unclear whether this figure includes "blackmail" settlements for commercial reasons, regardless of merit). The major beneficiaries of legal aid are thus lawyers and not victims of medical accidents; lawyers are paid regardless of the merits and outcome of the claim and the quality of representation. Scarce funds for patient care are diverted to lawyers' pockets.

Medical negligence cases conducted under conditional fee agreements backed by after-the-event insurance (necessary in order to pay defence costs, should the claim fail) has a successful record. There is an identity of interest of client, lawyer, insurer and claims assessor. All want the claim to succeed, and to do the job properly. Shoddy work is penalised by failure. Claims are assessed individually.

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



ANTHONY BARTON

independently and rigorously at reasonable cost. The insurance market is highly competitive. There are now five insurers offering various schemes for medical negligence claims. However, the cost of insurance and investigation for medical negligence can be high. Government support for a system that clearly works so much better than legal aid ought to be considered; for example, the state could pay for the expert reports and the insurance. The best features of conditional fees and legal aid should be combined.

The Legal Aid Board is concerned about the low success rate for medical negligence cases. It proposes to restrict such work to "expert medical negligence firms" – "expertise" is denoted by "objectively verifiable criteria" such as membership of a supposed specialist medical negligence panel. However, the Law Society confirms that "there is no evidence to show that those solicitors who are members of panels achieve better results than non-panel members". Instead of merely proclaiming their expertise, so-called medical negligence specialist lawyers would do better to demonstrate it by some objectively verifiable criterion such as outcome measures. Further, the board admits that using specialist lawyers would cost more without necessarily producing any benefit. Worse, the proposals do not take account of the inherent bias and unfairness of legal aid.

The Lord Chief Justice commented recently that the legal aid system had "to a very large extent lived up to the ideals of those who conceived and established it" (*The Independent*, 15 June, "Why legal aid must continue"). But what is so ideal about a system that lacks independence and accountability, that neither provides access to justice nor ensures compensation for deserving claims, that enriches lawyers from public funds and that impoverishes the Health Service to the detriment of patients?

Anthony Barton is a doctor, lawyer and regular contributor to the journal *Medical Litigation*

IN BRIEF

FAMILY LAWYERS have backed reforms to make pre-nuptial contracts legally enforceable, but have also warned against introducing a rigid 50/50 split of joint property when a marriage fails. The proposals are included in the Law Society's Family Law Committee's discussion paper on maintenance and capital provision in divorce this week. The society has sent a copy to the Lord Chancellor calling for full consultation on reforms to the law on financial provision in divorce. The committee chairman, Hilary Siddle, said taking the matter out of the hands of the courts might risk increasing the poverty often suffered by women after divorce.

THE MERGER of the accountancy firms Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand was completed last week at the offices of the City law firm Herbert Smith, to form the conglomerate PricewaterhouseCoopers. Herbert Smith acted for PW on the international arrangements and co-

ordination of local mergers and for Coopers on European competition issues.

THE CHARITY Victim Support has called on the Government to provide funding to allow it to extend its support services to victims, witnesses and their families in cases heard in the magistrates' courts. There is currently a system of state funding for such support services in every Crown Court in England and Wales.

THE GOVERNMENT is to publish a White Paper on radical legal reforms to go beyond what the Lord Chancellor has already announced as to rights of audience and legal aid. Parliamentary sources said the Modernisation of Justice Bill, expected to be announced in the Queen's Speech in October, may propose that pre-nuptial agreements be legally enforceable, and introduce paternity rights for unmarried fathers. Changes to legal aid – its withdrawal in personal injury cases, and an extension of conditional fee agreements, may also be included.

Who can manage the law?

Roger Trapp finds that solicitors are handing over the reins of the business to non-lawyers

TO MANY – both inside and outside the profession – the words "lawyers" and "management" are mutually exclusive. Perhaps more than most other professionals, solicitors have tended to see themselves as determined individualists – doing what they do for the benefit of their clients and their own practices rather than for anything greater.

However, the increasing size of legal practices has brought management to the fore. Where the accountancy firms have led, solicitors have followed. Nowadays the larger the firm, the more likely it is to have day-to-day management devolved from the partners as a whole – who are, after all, the owners of the business – to a group of often full-time executives.

According to a report just produced by Timothy Morris of London Business School and Ashley Pinnington of Exeter University's School of Business and Economics, firms have taken steps to reform or extend their internal managerial controls and improve productivity – often using management consultants to assist.

That in itself is little surprise. Indeed, there are few areas of life that

have escaped the management consultants these days.

Equally, there are not many surprises in the main findings of the research, entitled "Management and Performance in Law Firms". It was carried out as a follow-up to work done by the two authors three years previously. Hence, the findings that firms have got bigger both in terms of number of partners and fee income: that they are increasingly likely to merge, and that partner consensus is still regarded as important.

However, Professor Morris points to the curiosity of the situation whereby corporations are looking increasingly to adopt some of the attributes of partnerships in an effort to become more responsive to their markets, while partnerships are moving towards central control.

The recent response by the accountancy firm KPMG to the merger, completed last week, of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, is but one indication of the trend. It has appointed an international executive team with the intention of instilling more global focus into what has traditionally been seen as an association of firms.

Law firms of the middle rank and above are increasingly appointing chief executives – sometimes without any legal experience – with the aim of imposing more order on a situation where there are scores of owners, each believing they are doing the right thing.

However, Professor Morris is concerned that this will create an ad-

Executives take the great weight of bureaucracy off the partners' shoulders

ditional layer of bureaucracy that will end up being disbanded. He believes that this is the wrong way for firms to go, chiefly because central controls risk threatening agility.

The urge to increase managerial control might have been prompted by episodes such as the spate of corporate collapses that led to questions being asked about the standard of auditing in some of the largest accounting firms. However, he warns that expansion into markets around the

world will only be successful if there is local understanding and the flexibility to act on that understanding.

One of the reasons why large companies are trying to make their business units more autonomous is to enable local managers to act quickly rather than have to grapple with the vast weight of bureaucracy that has stymied them in the past.

Firms will have to rely upon their cultures to keep standards up, he says. After all, even with increased management, partners in many firms are still sufficiently individualistic to be intent on going their own way. "All the evidence about controls is that if people don't want to respond, they evade them," he says.

But perhaps the biggest factor that firms need to bear in mind as they seek to discover the best way of managing their growth is that partners in law firms are – in Professor Morris's experience – more suspicious of management than people in other areas.

"You typically find managing partners trying to manage with efficiency and concerned about performance, but having to persuade fellow partners of that," he says.

Having been prompted to study the field by managing partners attending general courses at LBS, Professor Morris certainly seems to have been persuaded that the law is a distinct area of business needing its own style of management.

He sees a need for a wider literature to complement the writings of David Maister, the British-born former Harvard Business School academic who – through lectures and a pair of books – has made himself the managing partner's sage.

While there are certain similarities between all forms of partnership – even to the point that he thinks the partnership ethos can survive a change of ownership structure, as is happening with the investment bank Goldman Sachs – he believes lawyers should be wary of following too closely behind accountants.

Accountants have more affinity with the corporate style because their business is largely advising on efficiency, he says. Lawyers tend to provide advice of the type that today is generally termed "value-added".

One reason, of course, why accountancy firms are so keen to tie up with solicitors.

NEW FILMS

MOJO (15)

Director: Jez Butterworth
Starring: Aidan Gillen, Ian Hart
There is a moment in *Absolute Beginners* when the director, Julien Temple, pays homage to *Rear Window* by moving the camera across the exterior of a Soho building, dipping into the vignettes unfolding in each office. One of them shows Lionel Blair as a salacious music impresario grooming his junior Elvis and drooling over the boy's snake-hips, smart and quiff. That detail reminds us that behind every young blade in pop lurked plump who made a point of sampling the goods they were flogging. The new British film *Mojo*, which Jez Butterworth has directed and adapted from his own play, reveals what we might have seen if Temple had manoeuvred his camera inside that office, down the stairs, across the danceroom and into the dim back rooms. Although *Mojo* is tougher and more complex than *Absolute Beginners*, it too is set in a mythologised 1950s Soho which laces grubby realism with rocco glamour. These characters are petty gangsters dabbling in the music industry. Insignificant Teddy boy Sidney (Andy Serkis) pops pills and dreams of America; his sidekick, Sweets (Martin Gwynn Jones), is a jittery boy, easily impressed; their boss, Ezra (Ricky Tomlinson), is a blanchmange of a man who knows what's good for business. The film never entirely escapes its theatrical roots, and while it may linger in the shadow of *Reservoir Dogs*, it concentrates on a sexual tension which American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

SLING BLADE (15)

Director: Billy Bob Thornton
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Robert Duvall
This intelligent and unsettling drama won its writer-director, Billy Bob Thornton, an Oscar for best adapted screenplay two years ago. Thornton also gives a performance of dazzling concentration as Carl, a mentally disabled man released into the outside world after spending his life in an institution. Although Thornton is free of the indulgences of most actors who are called upon to portray a disabled character, the film is prone to a sanitisation

of Carl's personality. That aside, this is a compelling work dotted with surprising performances. CW: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

KISS OR KILL (18)

Director: Bill Bennett
Starring: Frances O'Connor, Matt Day
Australian road movie-cum-serial-killer drama about a couple of scam merchants, one of whom may be a murderer. Pretentious in some places, it manages to be agreeably nasty in others. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

TOUCH (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Skeet Ulrich, Christopher Walken
Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. Ulrich is an accidental saint who finds himself bleeding from stigmata and healing the disabled. CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

GURU IN SEVEN (18)

Director: Shani Grewal
Starring: Saeed Jaffrey, Jacqueline Pearce
A dismal, witless British comedy which comes on like an Asian version of *Alfie*. A young chancer enters into an agreement to sleep with seven women in seven days in order to attain guru status. CW: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

MAD CITY (15)

Director: Costa Gavras
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, John Travolta
A despairingly simplistic work with Dustin Hoffman as the weaselly reporter who chances upon a hostage situation in a museum. CW: ABC Baker Street, Hammersmith, Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Rd, Warner Village West End

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

THE APOSTLE (12)

Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a terrifying yet entrancing manner. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith, Virgin, Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. What could so easily have been a nightmare emerges as a refreshing success. West End: Metro

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters). CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. What fun there can be had from a second viewing is mostly due to John Travolta's manic performance as the greased-up high-school heartbreaker. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Flawed documentary investigating the death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the conspiracy theories which emerged in the wake of the event. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unusual origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minima, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Comedy-drama, starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwietniowski takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Jemini, Richmond Picture House, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival sockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers in this ingenious science-fiction-horror fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between a Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

PALMETTO (15)

Irony film noir directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Victoire Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Haymarket, Metro

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: Virgin Trocadero

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths before becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Implausibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

STAR KID (PG)

Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination. West End: Hammersmith, Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Renior

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas, adapted from James Duff's Broadway play. Homefront. CW: Plaza

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Unashamedly dumb but winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), but finds that she's engaged to someone else. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

FARGO (left) is screening in London today (in a double-bill with *The Big Lebowski*), and although its bleak, wintry landscapes may not seem like ideal summer viewing, it is a film which repays close attention. It provided the Coen Brothers' crossing-over point, in terms of both commercial viability and industry recognition (it won two Oscars, for the screenplay, and for Frances McDormand's warm, wise performance as a pregnant cop).

Riverside Studios, London W6 (0181-237 1111) today, tomorrow 6.45pm I can't vouch for the quality of the new documentary *This Is Not an Exit*, but anything with Bret Easton Ellis and, more specifically, his novel *American Psycho*, as its subject is going to be interesting at the very least. And pertinent too, in the wake of Mary Harron's aborted attempts to film the novel with Christian Bale in the lead. ICA, London SW1 (0171-930 2647) Fri-Sun, 9pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

THE MANCHESTER Royal Exchange's audacious reconstruction of the Mark Twain classic *Animal Crackers* ends its London run tomorrow. With consummate skill, Ben Keaton, Joseph Alessi and Toby Sedgwick take on the personas of Groucho, Chico and Harpo - let loose at a Long Island high society party. The endless supply of cheap one-liners, visual gags and zany songs will have you honking, Marx-like, with laughter. Musical-lovers dismayed by the reaction to *Whistle Down the Wind*, may find solace in Windsor, where a melodic take on Dickens' Eurostar classic, *A Tale of Two Cities*, is going down a storm. Paul Nicholas stars as the tovelorn barrister who has the worst of times, thanks to the French Revolution. Theatre Royal, Windsor (01753 553 588) 8pm



Dance Louise Levene

AFTER A deeply depressing opening performance of *La Bayadere*, the Royal Ballet tries its luck with Swan Lake (right) tonight. The general standard of dancing is not all it might be, but there are definite compensations here and there. Tonight's Odette is the flower-like Miyako Yoshida. Steely technique and sure musicality make her dancing a delight, both in the dream-like adagios of the white acts and in the merciless seduction of the Black Swan pas de deux. Her partner is the gorgeous Bruce Sansom, who is still the only natural aristocrat in the company and a fine classical stylist to boot. In the absence of the two stars, shut your eyes and savour the sublime conducting of Viktor Fedotov guesting in the pit. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300)



Literature Judith Palmer

GERMAINE GREER (right) kicks off tonight's proceedings at the Ledbury Poetry Festival by choosing the eight poems she'd like to take with her to a desert island. A miracle to hear the *Late Reviewer* harp on something positive, or maybe being selected for sequestration on a desert island with Dr Greer is intended as punishment, not praise. St Katharine's Hall, High St, Ledbury (01531 63156) 7pm
Adrian Mitchell made his name with free-wheeling political rants against Vietnam and the A-bomb, but he's at his best lipping through such sublimely comic poems as "A Puppy Called Puberty". "It was like keeping a puppy in your underpants. He only slept for five minutes at a time. Then he'd suddenly perk up his head. In the middle of school medical inspection." The festival continues over the weekend with Ruth Padel, Jo Shapcott, Roger McGough and Don Paterson. St Katharine's Hall, High St, Ledbury (01531 63156) 9pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-435 7773) @ Baker Street
City 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 6pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-435 0631) @ Piccadilly Circus
Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Good Will Hunting 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm
Confidential 8pm
Washington Square 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus
Guru In Seven 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square
Kiss or Kill 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Live Flesh 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square
Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Kundun 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Martha & Meel 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
My Son the Fanatic 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Still Standing 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
City of Angels 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm
Godzilla Thu 9.10pm
The Object of My Affection 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) @ Moorfields-Barbican
Love and Death On Long Island 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 9.10pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Love and Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common
Girls' Night 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
Live and Death On Long Island 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm
Sliding Doors 2pm, 6pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Titanic 2.30pm, 7.30pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Godzilla Thu 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Object of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
The Apostle 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Live and Death On Long Island 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 10.10pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm, 10.40pm, 1.10pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Love and Death On Long Island 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm, 11.15pm
Short, Icebergs

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Godzilla Thu 6pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Mad City 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

METRO (0171-437 0575) @ Piccadilly Circus
Love and Death On Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Ponette 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge Live
Flesh 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Six Days, Seven Nights 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town
City of Angels 12.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm
Kiss or Kill 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
11.40pm
Mimic 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Affection 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm
Sliding Doors 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm, 11.55pm
Sliding Doors 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm
The Wedding Singer 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm, 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Kiss or Kill 9.40pm, 12.30pm
The Object of My Affection 6.45pm, 9.30pm, 12.15pm, 2.05am
Nights 7pm, 9.25pm, 12.05am

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-215 4216) @ Marble Arch
City of Angels 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
Mimic 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm
The Object of My Affection 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm, 11.35pm, 12.25pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Good As It Gets 4.45pm, 8.25pm
Lolita 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Martha & Meel 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm
My Son the Fanatic 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Still Standing 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
The Big Lebowski 6.05pm, 8.30pm
City of Angels 6pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm
Point Blank 6.35pm, 8.55pm, 11.15pm, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
The Object of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm, 11.45pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm, 11.55pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) @ East Fenchley Live
Flesh 3pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
Deep Impact 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm
Jackie Brown 4.15pm, 7.10pm, 10.10pm, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm

RENOIR (0171-437 6400) @ Russell Square
Love and Death On Long Island 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
The Taste of Cherry 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-727 1234) @ Baker Street
The Big Lebowski 11.40pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm, 11.35pm
Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.00pm, 9.10pm
Live Flesh 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm, 10.00pm, 12.10pm
The Object of My Affection 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.00pm, 9.10pm, 11.20pm
The Replacement Killers 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.00pm, 8.10pm, 10.20pm, 12.30pm
Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.00pm, 9.10pm, 11.20pm
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.00pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm, 12.40pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-437 1234) @ Baker Street
Live and Death On Long Island 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
The Taste of Cherry 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
Good As It Gets 4.45pm, 8.25pm
Lolita 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Martha & Meel 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm
My Son the Fanatic 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Still Standing 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park
Love and Death On Long Island 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm, 12.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3333) @ Bayswater
City of Angels 3.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Girls' Night 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm
Mad City 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm
The Object of My Affection 2pm, 4.55pm, 7.45pm, 10.35pm, 1.25pm, 4.15pm, 7.05pm, 9.55pm, 12.45pm
Sliding Doors 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Sliding Doors 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870 902 0412) @ Beckenham
The Object of My Affection 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 11.00pm, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Sliding Doors 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) @ Bexleyheath
City of Angels 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm, 12.10pm
Deep Impact 2.15pm, 7.10pm, 11.45pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) • Holloway
Archway City Of Angels 7.10pm,
9.45pm Mimic 7.25pm The Object Of
My Affection 9.40pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 7.30pm, 9.55pm

ILFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4223) • Gants
Hill City Of Angels 12.00pm, 2.40pm,
6pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 1pm,
5.55pm Mimic 12.10pm, 2.50pm,
5.30pm, 8pm Mouselund 11.30pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 1.20pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 3.25pm,
8.35pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm,
3.50pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0408) BR:
Kingston The Object Of My Affection
5.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights
2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Sliding Doors
2.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) • Highgate
City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm, 8.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm,
8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights
2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR:
Peckham City Of Angels 3.40pm,
6.05pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.45pm, 6.10pm,
8.35pm Mad City 3.40pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm, 11.15pm Mimic 3.35pm,
6.05pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm
The Replacement Killers 11.55pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 4.35pm, 6.55pm,
9pm, 11.25pm Soul Food 3.50pm,
6.25pm, 8.50pm Wishmaster 1.15pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley The
Object Of My Affection 2.40pm,
5.40pm Red Corner 8.20pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Sliding Doors 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 902 0401) • Putney
Bridge BR: Putney City Of Angels 2pm,
4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 2pm, 7pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm,
9.45pm The Wedding Singer
4.30pm, 9.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218)
BR/• Richmond City Of Angels
1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm,
9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm,
4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.10pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm,
5.50pm, 8.25pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729
040) BR: Romford City Of Angels
1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Deep
Impact 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm,
8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Mad City 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm,
8.20pm Mimic 12.10pm, 2.25pm,
4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm The Object Of
My Affection 4.10pm, 9.10pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 12.15pm, 2.30pm,
4.5pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Sliding Doors
4.25pm, 6.30pm The Wedding Singer
12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm,
6.40pm, 8.50pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555 131) BR: Sidcup Six
Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.15pm,
5.15pm, 8.35pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR:
Circusland City Of Angels 1.30pm,
5.30pm, 8.20pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm,
8.15pm, 11.30pm Mad City 3pm, 6pm,
8.45pm, 11.30pm Mimic 1.15pm The
Object Of My Affection 2.15pm,
5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven
Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm,
11.30pm Soul Food 1.15pm The
Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm,
11pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham
Hill Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Mad City
2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors
2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR:
Streatham Hill City Of Angels
Common Mimic 2.10pm, 4.30pm,
7.10pm, 9.40pm The Object Of
My Affection 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm,
7.20pm, 9.40pm Six Days, Seven
Nights 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm,
9.40pm, 12midnight Soul Food 1.40pm,
4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Wedding
Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm,
7pm, 9.20pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/• Strat-
ford East City Of Angels 3.55pm, 5pm
The Girl With Brains In Her Feet 2pm,
6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.50pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Guro In
Seven 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm,
9.05pm Mimic 1.30pm, 4pm, 9pm The
Object Of My Affection 4.20pm,
6.50pm Six Days, Seven Nights
2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Soul
Food 6.30pm Greenwich+Docklands
International Festival/Rooney 6.45pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888 990) BR: Sutton
• Morden City Of Angels 1.15pm,
6.45pm, 9.15pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm,
9pm, 11.30pm Mad City 3.30pm,
6pm, 8.30pm Mimic 4.45pm, 12.15pm
The Object Of My Affection 4.15pm
The Replacement Killers 11.45pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm,
9.30pm, 12midnight Sliding Doors 5pm,
7.15pm The Wedding Singer 3.45pm,
8.45pm, 11pm

TORNHILL
ODEON (0181-888 3519)
• Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm,
8.35pm The Object Of My Affection
3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813 139) • Uxbridge
The Man Who Knew Too Little 1.10pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.20pm,
4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm Sliding Doors
3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902 0424) • Walthamstow
Central City Of Angels 1.25pm, 3.40pm,
6.15pm, 8.30pm Mimic 3.50pm,
8.40pm The Object Of My Affection
1.20pm, 6pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT
WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Wal-
ton on Thames Grease (20th Anniver-
sary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:
Eltham The Object Of My Affection
3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WILLESDEN
BELLEVUE (0181-830 0822)
• Willesden Green Sliding Doors
4.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222)
BR/• Wimbledon South Wimbledon
City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm,
11.15pm Mimic 11.20pm The Object
Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.30pm,
6pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm, 11.55pm
The Replacement Killers 11.55pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 4.35pm, 6.55pm,
9pm, 11.25pm Soul Food 3.50pm,
6.25pm, 8.50pm Wishmaster 1.15pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) • South
Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Object Of
My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043)
BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm,
8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights
3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON
ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)
Tessie: The Last Man (18) 6.30pm The
Last Man (18) 6.30pm The Last Man
(18) 6.30pm The Last Man (18) 6.30pm
9pm Organ (NC) 2.30pm, 8.30pm
Don't Look Back (NC) 5pm, 7pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-884
0201) Slovic Programme 1 (NC) 7pm
Slovic Programme 2 (NC) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633
0274/cc 929 3232) Congress Dances
(NC) 2.30pm Three Men And A Cradle
(NC) 6.15pm Written On The Wind
(PG) 6.30pm The Butcher Boy (15)
7.30pm Brassed Off (15) 8.30pm The
Evil Eye (18) 8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Pic-
cadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)
Across The Sea Of Time - A New York
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm,
5.20pm Everest (U) 3.20pm, 7.50pm
L2-City In Space (NC) 12.10pm,
2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) The James
Gang (15) 1pm Red Corner (15)
3.30pm Dark City (15) 6.15pm Dad
Savage (18) 9pm The Rocky Horror
Picture Show (15) 11.45pm

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 2 (0171-254
6677) The Taste Of Cherry (PG)
2.15pm, 6.45pm Love And Death On
Long Island (15) 4.30pm, 9.10pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road
W6 9 (0181-237 111/cc 420 0100)
Fargo (18) 6.45pm + The Big
Lebowski 8.45pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE
High Street TW8 (0181-568 1176) A
Thousand Acres (15) 1.30pm, 7pm City
Of Angels (12) 5pm, 9pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-626261)
Afterglow (15) 6.30pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
The General (15) 5.45pm Faster
Pussycat, Kill! Kill! (18) 11.15pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Love And Death On Long Island (15)
12.30pm, 7pm The Apostle (12)
2.30pm, 9.15pm Point Blank (18) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666)
Amistad (15) 6.15pm Love And
Death On Long Island (15) 7.30pm
The Fanatic (15) 9.15pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE
(01243-786650) As Good As It Gets
(15) 3.45pm The Full Monty (15)
6.45pm The Wedding Singer (12) 9pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544)
The Apostle (12) 5pm, 8.30pm Wild
Man Blues (12) 9pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Great
Expectations (15) 5.45pm Like It Is (18)
8.15pm Taxi Driver (18) 11.15pm

PLYMOUTH
PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE
(01752-206114) Oscar And Lucinda
(15) 6pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BATH
ABC (01225-461730) PG: Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) (PG)
Little Theatre (01225-468922):
Mad City (15): City Of Angels (12)

ROBINS (01225-461506): Mrs Brown
(PG): The Object Of My
Affection (15): Godzilla (PG): Six
Days, Seven Nights (12): The
Replacement Killers (18)

MAIDSTONE
ABC CINEMA (0870-9020405):
Godzilla (PG): City Of Angels (12):
Mimic (15): Six Days, Seven Nights
(12): The Butcher Boy (15): Deep Im-
pact (12): The Object Of My Affection
(15): Anastasia (U): Titanic (12)

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today,
times and prices for the week, running
times include intervals. — Seats at
all prices — Seats at some prices —
Returns only. — [1]: Sun, [3]:
Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

● **ANIMAL CRACKERS** Three
actors recreate the wild antics of the Marx
Brothers. Barbican Theatre, Barbican
Square, EC2 (0171-638 4141)
● **Barbican/Moorgate**, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
mats Sat 2pm, ends 11 Jul, £10-£19

● **ART** Richard Griffiths, Tony
Haygarth, Malcolm Storry in Yasmina
Reza's comedy about art and friendship.
Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross
Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867
1111) • Leicester Square, Tue-Sat
8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat & Sun 5pm,
£9.50-£27.50, 90 mins

● **AS YOU LIKE IT**
Shakespeare's literary comedy contrast-
ing the court and the natural world. The
Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401
9919) • London Bridge, in rep, tonight
7.30pm, ends 8 Sep, £5-£20, concs avail-
able, 180 mins

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**
Lavish family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.
Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court
Road, W1 (0171-456
1111) • Tottenham Court Road, Mon-
Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm,
£17.50-£32.50, 150 mins

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy
Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical. Phoenix Theatre, Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
● **Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road**,
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat
4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins

● **BUDDY** Musical biopic
tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930
8800) • Covent Garden/Charing Cross,
Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm,
Sat & Sun 3pm, mats Sun 4pm, £6.75-
£30, 160 mins

● **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems. New
London Theatre, Parker Street, WC2
(0171-405 0072/cc 404 4071)
● **Covent Garden/London**, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 165 mins

● **CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars
in this hit Broadway musical.
Adelphi Theatre, Maiden Lane, WC2
(0171-344 0055) • Charing Cross,
Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm,
£16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins

● **CLOSER** Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Debra's Choice author Patrick Marber.
Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5045) • Piccadilly Circus,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm,
£5-£27.50, 140 mins

● **THE COMPLETE WORKS
OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**
(ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare
Company fast-forward through 37 plays.
Crichton Theatre, Piccadilly Circus,
W1 (0171-369 1747) • Piccadilly
Circus, Wed-Sat 8pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat
5pm, Sun 4pm, £9.50-£20, 120 mins

● **DR DOLITTLE** Philip Schofield
stars in this new stage adaptation
featuring Jim Henson Puppets. Labatt's Ap-
leto Hamamstead's musical set on the
Mississippi. Prince Edward Theatre, Old
Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400)
● **Leicester Square/Tottenham Court
Road**, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat
2.30pm, £10-£35, 180 mins

● **ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES**
David Farr's comedy about one man's
obsession with Watford Football Club and
their failure to win the Cup Final in 1984.
Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue,
W1 (0171-494 5590/cc 344 4444)
● **Piccadilly Circus**, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
mats Sat 2pm, ends 11 Jul,
£10.50-£27.50, 120 mins

● **GREASE** Marissa Dunlop stars
in the stage version of the hit film.
Cambridge Theatre, Earlham Street, WC2
(0171-494 5080) • Covent Garden,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm,
£10-£30, 150 mins

● **HOW I LEARNED TO
DRIVE** Paula Vogel's drama about the
incestuous relationship between a
teenager and her uncle. Donmar
Warehouse, Earlham Street, W1
(0171-369 1733) • Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£16,
concs available, 95 mins

● **THE ICEMAN COMETH**
Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's
classic, dramatising the lives of New York
City's 'ice men'. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc
420 0020) BR/• Waterloo, Mon-Sat
7pm, mats Sat 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-
£50, 180 mins

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**
Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of
Wilde's comedy. Albany Theatre, St
Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc
867 1111) • Leicester Square, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £7.50-
£29.50, 165 mins

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**
Stephen Dillards's acclaimed production
of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre,
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494
5085) • Leicester Square, Mon-Fri
7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm,
Sat 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins

● **KAT AND THE KINGS**
Musical set in 1950s Cape Town.
Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-
836 9997) BR/• Charing Cross, Mon-
Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm,
£6.25-£27.50, 130 mins

● **A LETTER OF RESIGNA-
TION** Hugh Whitham's play about the
Proclamation and political morality.
Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-836
8288/cc 828 0091) • Charing Cross,
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat
4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins

● **THE MERCHANT OF
VENICE** Shakespeare's cross
cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe
Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) • London
Bridge, in rep, today 3pm, ends 19 Sep,
£5-£20, concs available, 180 mins

● **LES MISERABLES** Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's
masterpiece. Palace Theatre,
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434
9099) • Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm,
£7-£32.50, 195 mins

● **WHAT YOU GET AND
WHAT YOU EXPECT** Acrylic
look at a generation born on success. Lyric
Hammerstein King Street, W6 (0181-
741 2311) • Hammerstein, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 8 Aug,
£10-£14, concs available

● **THE MISANTHROPE** Elaine
Pais, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles
and Anna Cartmel star in Rian's new
translation of Moliere's comedy.
Pleasance Theatre, Drury Lane,
WC2 (0171-369 1734) • Piccadilly Circus,
in rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing,
£5.50-£27.50, concs £12.50, 140 mins

● **MISS SAIGON** Musical which
recreates the Madam Butterfly tragedy in
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane,
Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080)
• Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats
Wed & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins

● **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha
Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's
Theatre, West Street, WC2 (0171-836
1443) • Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 8pm,
mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 3pm, £9-£23,
135 mins

● **MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING** Debra Donnellan directs
Cheek By Jowl in a new production of
Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse
Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2
(0171-339 4401/cc 316 4747) • Em-
bankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu &
Sat 2.30pm, ends 26 Jul, £10-£22, 120
mins

● **THE OLD NEIGHBOR-
HOOD** David Mamet's new play is
directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court
Theatre (at the Duke of York's) St Mar-
tin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000)
• Leicester Square/Charing Cross, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, £5-
£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5,
90 mins

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre,
Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344
4444) • Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-
£32.50, 150 mins

● **POPCORN** Lawrence Boswell
directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema
violence. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) • Pic-
cadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed
3pm, Sat 4pm, £6.50-£23.50, 150 mins

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR
HOUND & BLACK COMEDY**
Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard
and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory
Dowd. Comedy Theatre, Parker Street,
SW1 (0171-369 1731) • Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50,
165 mins

● **RENT** Musical inspired by La
Bouche and set in modern day New York.
Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave-
nue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) • Hol-
born/Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10.50-
£32.50, 160 mins

● **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**
● **OLIVER!** Oklahoma! Classic
musical from Rodgers and Hammerstein,
featuring the song On! What A Beautiful
Mornin'. In rep, tonight 7.15pm,
ends 3 Oct, 155 mins

● **LYTTLETON: The Prime Of Miss
Jean Brodie** Fiona Shaw stars as the
Scottish schoolmistress in this new
adaptation of the classic novel by Muriel
Spark. In rep, tonight 7.30pm,
ends 3 Oct, 155 mins

● **COTTESLOE: Our Lady Of
Stige** Out Of Joint's latest production
stars Siobhán Duffell, in rep, tonight 7.30pm,
ends 25 Jul, £15, concs £4.50, 150 mins,
Oklahoma! £12-£32.50, Olivier & Lyttelton:
£9-£27, Cottesloe, £12-£18, South Bank,
SE1 (0171-452 3000)

FRIDAY RADIO

Radio 1
(97.8-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whitey. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

Radio 2
(88.90-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Disney's Women. 7.30 Three Tenors in Paris. 11.15 David Jacobs. 12.05 Jeff Owen. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composers of the Week: William Byrd and Thomas Tallis. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Archive. 4.00 Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. The last of three concerts in which Alfred Brendel plays all of Beethoven's piano concertos. Warsaw Sinfonia/Volker Schmidt-Gengenbach. Beethoven: Symphony No 1 in C. Lutoslawski: Funeral Music. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat (Emperor). 9.30 Postscript. Kathleen Griffin visits European spas. 5: 'Le Touquet - the Star Spa'. The seaside playground of the rich and famous. (R) 9.35 Petrus de Grudziadz. Music by the 15th-century composer with a flair for acrobatics, performed by the Bonus Consort and Ensemble Ars Nova de Varsovie. 10.00 Hear and Now. Presented by Verity Sharp. Monumental, meditative works by pioneer and reclusive Giacinto Scelsi (1905-88): Ohai; Hymnos; Chukrum; Knox-Op-Pax. BBC SO/Martyn Brabbins. Plus recent CDs of

PICK OF THE DAY

MICHAEL BUTTS The Irish Play (11.30am R4) takes a shillelagh to London theatre and its current obsession with Irishness. Freddie Jones (right) plays Jake Parsons, a forgotten playwright who reinvents himself as Desmond O'Docherty, rewrites his unperformed *The Witch of Dagenham* as *The Witch of Tralee*, and is promptly hailed as a genius. "There's just one character missing for me," says an admiring director at the



ROBERT HANKS

new music reviewed by Andrew McGregor. See *Pick of the Day* 11.30 Bright Size Life. Pat Metheny talks to Ian Carr about his career. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Barber. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.8MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: Reflections. 10.00 News; Woman's Hour. 11.00 News; The Garden. (R) 11.30 The Irish Play. See *Pick of the Day*. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Who Goes There? 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Unwritten Law. Helena Kennedy QC presents four dramatised features about trials that brought about a change in the law because of changing social attitudes. 1: 'A Case of Blasphemous Obscenity'. In 1976, Mary Whitehouse brought a private prosecution for blasphemous libel against Dennis Lemon and Gay News, which published an allegedly obscene poem about Christ. 3.00 News; Veg Talk. 3.30 The Great Outdoors. (R) 3.45 Feedback. 4.00 News; Book Club. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Perry Political Broadcast. 6.30 In the Chair. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. John Wilson catches up with Donald Harstad, a former deputy sheriff from Iowa who swapped his squad car for a word processor and wrote a gritty police thriller in 11 days flat. 7.45 Under One Roof: What's inside a Girl? By Mike Walker, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. With Paola Dionisotti, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (5/5). 8.00 News; Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Ladbury, Herefordshire, by panelists including Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Brian Sewell, art critic. 8.45 Letter from America. Alastair Cooke with another slice of Americana. 9.00 News; The Friday Play: The Earthquake Girl. Katie Hims' award-winning play. Edie works in a library and is terrified of causing a world catastrophe. Her sister-in-law Lila thinks she should go out and find a man, but Edie would rather stay in and write a gothic romance. In fact, Edie would be a library if she could. With Saskia Reeves, Barbara Marten and Jean Alexander. Director Kate Rowland. Harris. (R) 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Setting

the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abridged by Neville Teller (5/10). 11.00 Late Tackle. Martin Bashir and guests including athlete Roger Black look ahead to the World Cup final and the British Grand Prix. 11.30 Eyes on the Prize. Mark Whittaker on the use of sportsmen and women to motivate and coach in the workplace. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Bombay Ice. Leslie Forbes's first novel - a thriller evoking images of Bombay and the cinematic magic of Bollywood - is abridged by Janet Hickson, adapted by the author and read by Harriet Walter. 'The Sea in the Mirror' (10/10). 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Report. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

Radio 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 6.00 today in Parliament.

Radio 5 Live
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.20 Friday Sport. Jonathan Overend introduces coverage of all the night's live action, including second-half commentary on the Super League game between Leeds Rhinos and Salford Reds. 10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk, 10.30 sport round-up, 11.00 the late night news, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requiem. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Janina Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW)
7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Banks. 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Jarney Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Howard Pearce.

World Service
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From the Weeklies. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Songs of Home. 2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Weekend/Insight (SW 5875kHz). 4.45 Off the Shelf: Candide (SW 5875kHz). 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

Talk Radio
(1053, 1089kHz MW)
6.30 New Talk Radio Breakfast Show. Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Tommy Boyd. 4.00 Peter Dealey. 7.00 Moz Dees Sportszone. 10.00 Mike Allen. 1.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickinson.

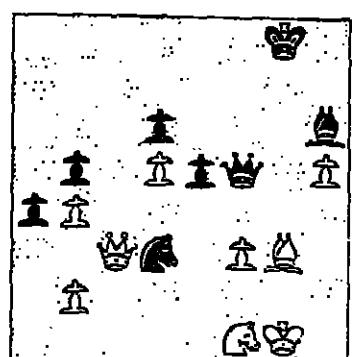
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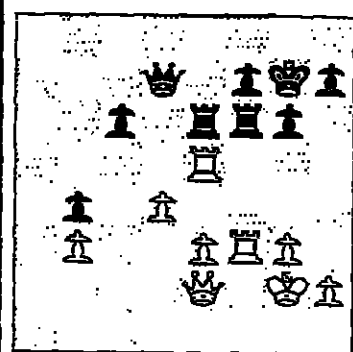
WILLIAM HARTSTON

AT LAST month's Rapidplay tournament in Frankfurt, Viktor Korchnoi launched a splendid tirade against the trend towards such events. In his view, the competing grandmasters were no better than apes in a zoo performing for the public. Here is a position that may have helped shape Korchnoi's view.

the game: 1.Rxf6 Rxf6 2.h3 Qa7 3.Qb2?? (3.Rc5 is the right move) Qa6! and White resigned. There is no defence to the threat of Qf1+.



The second diagram was the scene of another upset. Adorjan, playing Black against Yusupov, continued 1...Bc1 2.Qc6 Bxb2 and White was clearly struggling. There followed 3.Kg2 Qg5 4.Qe8+ Kg7 5.Qd7+ Kh6 6.Qxd6+ Kxh5 7.Qd7 a3 8.Qh7+ Qh6 9.Qxd3 a2 10.Bf2! Qf4 (a1=Q loses to Ng3+) 11.Qh7+ Kg5 12.Ng3 and Black resigned. 12...a1=Q 13.Qg7+ Kh4 14.Ne4+ Kh5 15.Qh7+ or 12...Qxg3+ 13.Exg3 a1=Q 14.Bh4+ lead to mate.



It was reached after 35 moves of Korchnoi's game as White against Robert Hubner. Now 1.Rxf6 Rxf6 is as near to equal as makes no difference. Black's pawns on c6 and b4 are a minor worry; White's king is a little less secure than Black's, but a draw would be highly probable. Now look what happened in

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

IF YOU average more than 65 per cent for the three sessions of the Spanish Pairs Championship, you have excellent winning chances. It did not work out like that for Paul Fenn and Desmond Deery (the Irish ex-international) earlier this year: they finished only third, just a fraction of a per cent behind first and second. (Could they have saved the odd trick somewhere along the line, I wonder?)

Paul gave me this hand but modestly did not claim ownership of the top-scoring play. North opened One No-trump (12-14 points) and raised his partner's response of Three Hearts to game. West led ♠ against Four Hearts. Over to you! As you can see, simple finesses in the black suits lead to only nine tricks.

Love all; dealer North			
North			
♠ A Q 5 2			
♥ J 10 7			
♦ A 8 6 4			
♣ J			
West			
♠ 10 9 7			
♥ A 2			
♦ Q 10 3			
♣ K 7 6 3			
East			
♠ K 8 4			
♥ 8 3			
♦ K J 5			
♣ 10 8 4 2			
South			
♠ 6 3			
♥ A K Q 9 6 5			
♦ 9 7 2			
♣ A 5			

was to refuse the finesse and win with ♠ A, next came ♠ A and a spade ruff on which, not unexpectedly, the king came down. The ace and jack of hearts drew trumps, a diamond was discarded on the established ♠ Q and now a diamond ruff in hand completed the defenders' misery. The 10 of hearts was an entry to the table and the newly established ♠ K on which the losing club went away was the 11th trick. Even just making Four Hearts would have proved an above average score, but this was better!

PUZZLE

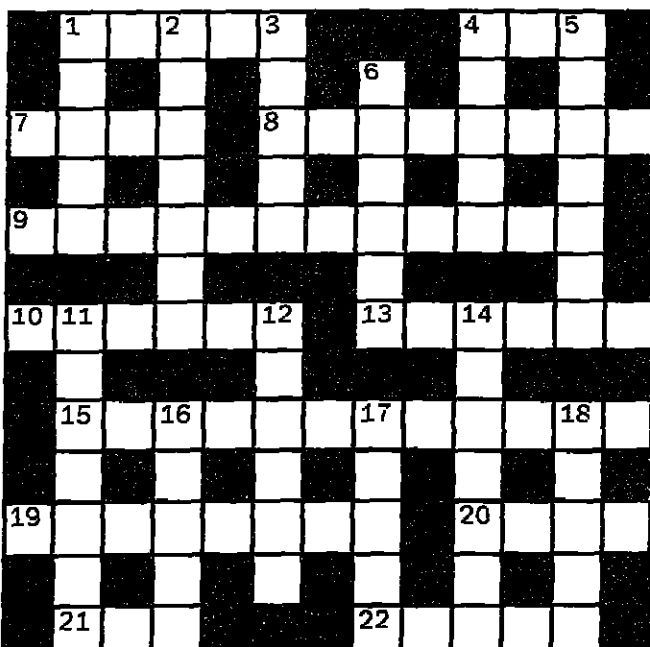
WHICH, in each of the following lists, is the odd one out?

1. COMPARISON, BAROMETER, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IRRIGATE, ACCLIMATISE, CAPITALISM.
2. REMARKED, MONETARIST, DISFRANCHISE, CAYENNE, COMPOUNDED, NEUROTIC, (answers on Monday).

Yesterday's answer: All Baba and the Forty Thieves.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3659 Friday 10 July



ACROSS

1. Wary (5)
2. Insect (3)
3. River of St Petersburg (4)
4. Symbolic story (8)
5. Circular arena (12)
6. Responds to stimulus (6)
7. Goblin (6)
8. Wholesale supply agency (+3)
9. Of wide application (8)
10. Irritation (4)
11. Tibetan ox (3)
12. Lock of hair (5)

DOWN

1. Best part (5)
2. Vivid (7)
3. Raising agent (5)
4. Intolerant person (5)
5. Serious (7)
6. Gripping tool (6)
7. Win or place (4,3)
8. Former Soviet dictator (6)
9. Come to appreciate (7)
10. Smooth-haired (5)
11. Number (5)
12. Diamonds (coll.) (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Fall, 4 Soap, (false hopes), 9 Edict, 10 Volcano, 11 Obedient, 12 Opal, 13 New technology, 17 Curb, 18 Detoured, 21 Tel Aviv, 22 Excel, 23 Rowan, 24 Sure. DOWN: 2 Abide, 3 Lark, 4 Seventh heaven, 5 Able, 6 Shampoo, 7 Rejoin, 8 Seal, 14 Warbler, 15 Obedient, 16 Yodel, 17 Cite, 19 Rectify, 20 Awe.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

IS THE French thirst for top-notch sporting spectacle unquenchable? The World Cup ends on Sunday, but the Tour de France starts on the very same day. Cycling: Tour de France (5pm Eurosport) features the highlights of last year's event. The American actor Adam Sandler won legions of British fans after his thoroughly winning performance as Drew Barrymore's dopey love interest in *The Wedding Singer* (right), but Billy Madison (5pm Sky Movies

Screen 1) isn't quite as soft-hearted. It's a determinedly unsophisticated comedy from the *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* school of film-making, which nevertheless has its moments. Sandler plays the eponymous anti-hero, a one-time high-school layabout who is forced to pass all his exams by his father in order to assume control of the family business, a large hotel chain. The comic catch is the fact that he's 27.



PETER CONCHIE

12.00 First Flights (771343), 12.30 Top Marquee (933489), 1.00 Forensic Detectives (573653), 2.00 Close.

Sky 1
2.00 Blooded Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (1497), 2.30 Games World (24610), 7.45 The Simpsons (2885), 8.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show (805028), 9.00 Hotel (7853), 10.00 Another World (5335), 11.00 Days of Our Lives (7778), 12.00 Married with Children (20497), 12.30 M*A*S*H (376215), 12.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 1.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 2.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 3.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 4.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 5.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 6.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 7.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 8.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 9.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 10.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 11.55 The Special K Collection (222732), 12.55 The Special K Collection (222732).

Cup (9001), 2.30 Trans World Sport (5435), 3.30 How the Premiership Was Won (5223), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (6038), 6.30 Cricket - Benson and Hedges Cup Final Preview (83559), 7.30 Super League on the Road Leeds v Salford (89479), 10.00 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 10.45 Sky Sports Centre (61630), 11.00 Cricket - Benson and Hedges Cup Final Preview (83559), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (55878), 12.15 Super League on the Road Leeds v Salford (89479), 12.45 Super League on the Road Leeds v Salford (89479), 1.00 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 1.30 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 1.45 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 2.00 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 2.15 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 2.30 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 2.45 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 3.00 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 3.15 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 3.30 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 3.45 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 4.00 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 4.15 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 4.30 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 4.45 World Cup Phone-in (8067), 4.60 World Cup 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FRIDAY TELEVISION

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 10 July 1998



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

"WHO KILLED JonBenét?", evidence against them by some element of the electronic mob that murmured and muttered over the crime - a question it knew it could not answer. But its point was that huge numbers of people, and in particular, large sections of the American media, think they know the answer anyway. They think it was JonBenét's parents - a wealthy businessman and his ex-beauty-queen wife - and since the murder, they have pursued that theory with a flagrant disregard for the facts, egged on by leads from police. The best verdict *Winners* was ever going to get, in respect of their defence of the Ramsey parents was "Not proven", a resolution that reads nothing. But in its simultaneous realignment of America's ill-created commercial news media, they secured an unorthodox "Guilty".

It doesn't follow from this that the Ramseys were involved or don't know more than they are saying. *Winners* is a well-made, accurate, in the case was necessary, to say the least - it drew attention to the fact that the three-page kidnap note had been written on the Ramseys' own pad and also that the ransom sum demanded was peculiarly precise (\$118,000). They did not give details of the results of handwriting analysis, some of which was reported to incriminate Patrick Ramsey, or note that this precise figure also coincided with the amount in one of John Ramsey's bank accounts. On the other hand, they made a good case that "reported to" and "allegedly" should set off warning flares in any reader's mind. It was widely reported for instance, that there were no footprints in the snow around the Ramsey home - a classic mystery-story clue pointing to an inside job. But now footage from the night shows large areas leading up to the house with no snow cover at all. The fact that there was no evidence of forced entry was similarly treated as a very uncertainly - but there was no need for forced entry, as windows were open and doors in the property were open anyway. Most grotesque of all, the informal change sheet, the media drew up included the crime of being insufficiently distraught. Or unsatisfactorily distraught. Or preternaturally calm. Or eerily controlled - because whatever demeanour the Ramseys adopted was soon called in

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (6805). 7.00 News (70039). 8.00 *AI Over the Top* (R) (S) (387942). 9.30 *Kluge* (R) (S) (3445720). 10.00 *Meet the Challenge* (S) (606331). 10.30 *Style Challenge Classics* (S) (616520). 10.45 *Short Change* (74045). 11.00 News: Regional News: Weather (74045). 11.05 *Pole to Pole* (S) (74045). 11.15 News: Regional News: Weather (74045). 11.20 *Every Second Counts* (S) (74045). 11.30 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 11.40 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 11.50 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.05 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.10 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.15 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.20 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.25 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.30 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.35 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.40 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.45 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 12.50 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.00 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.05 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.10 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.15 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.20 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.25 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.30 *Cartoon* (S) (74045). 1.35 *Cartoon* (S) 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